AMERICAN RIFLEMAN

CA. 8267 C-257 L.T. 11-18-37
BRUCE M. BURCHARD
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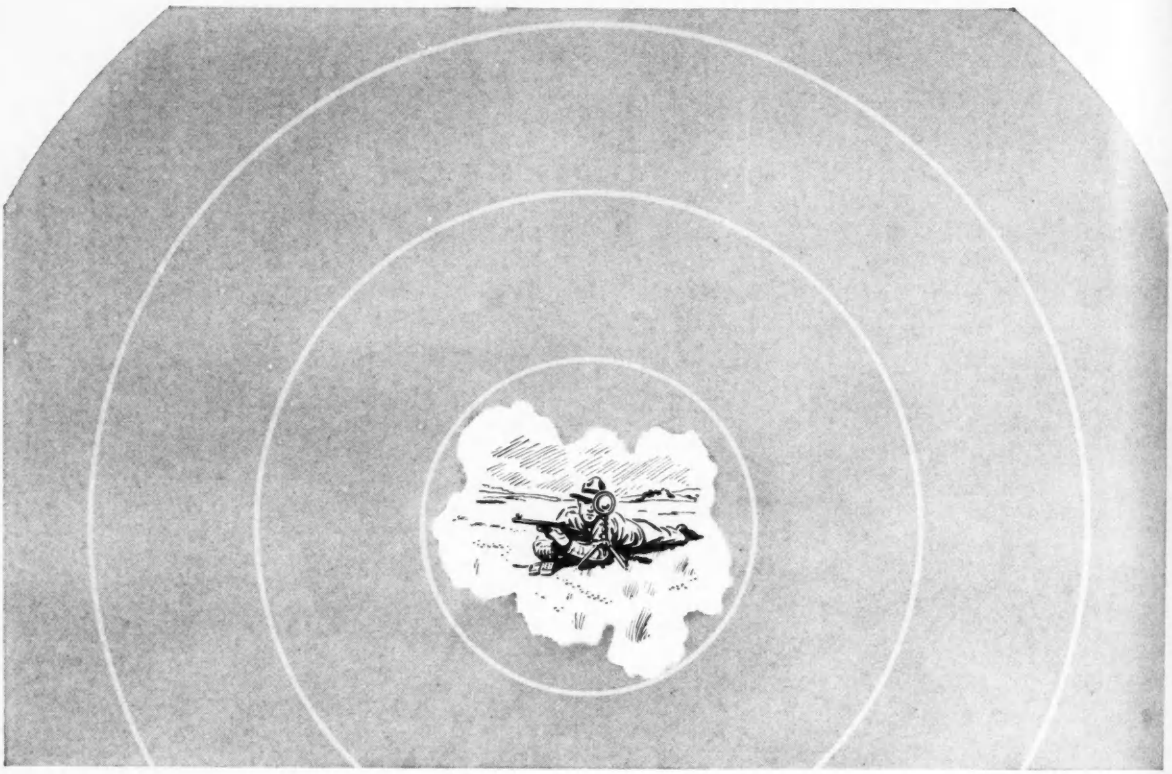
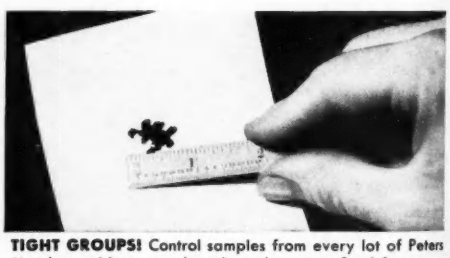


Why Peters packs the possibles

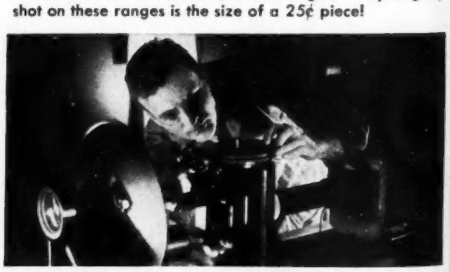
YOUR FIRST SHOT may be a "pinwheel," but what about the others? Whether the range is 50 feet or 200 yards, the rest of that possible depends on your rifle, on your hold, on your squeeze, on your eye, and *perfect uniformity* in your ammunition!

All other factors equal, Peters match ammunition packs the uniformity that means possibles! Peters experts run exhaustive tests on every lot before it leaves the factory. They measure case and bullet for *micro-close* tolerances. They check for *uniformity* of crimping, *sameness* in primer ignition, the exact amount of the *right* powder. And then they test-fire these Peters match cartridges on ballistics ranges to make sure that every "lot" you buy will *really pack the possibles!*

Back up your good aim! Load up with Peters "Police Match" or Peters "Dewar Match" 22's the next time you go match shooting. And for target practice, try Peters "Target" 22's.



TIGHT GROUPS! Control samples from every lot of Peters Match cartridges you shoot have been test-fired from guns in machine-rest on Peters ballistics ranges. Many a group shot on these ranges is the size of a 25¢ piece!



PRECISION-MADE, PRECISION-TESTED through and through . . . for perfect uniformity in bullets, cases, primer, and powder. Peters match ammunition is the same from cartridge to cartridge, box to box, case to case!

PETERS
PACKS THE POSSIBLES

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DU PONT

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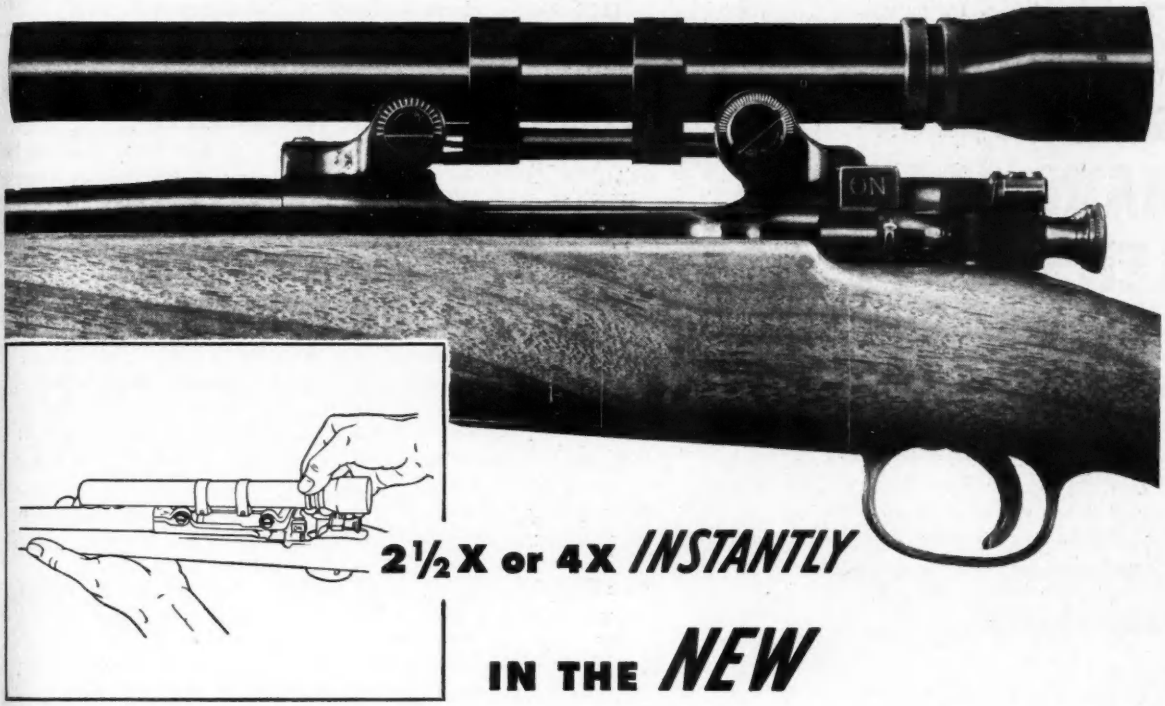

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AMERICAN RIFLEMAN

The Rifle 1885-1888
Shooting and Fishing 1888-1906
Arms and the Man 1906-1923

Official Journal of the NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERI
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Vol. 97, No. 11 • November 19

Simple Arithmetic — an Editorial

Still Chasing Rainbows — by Al Barr
A progress report on bench-rest shooting past, present and future

Center 5's Again — by Capt. Thurman E. Barrier, USMC
A Marine tells how the Garand can be made to perform on the range

Where They Hit! — by Robert Hutton
Vital statistics of our most popular .25-caliber wildcat cartridges

The Dog-Gonnedest Sight Changer! — by Maj. Charles Askins
Veteran pistolman Askins turns his spotlight on the 1949 champ

Loads for the .348
Eighth in the Rifleman's series on reload data for popular cartridges

Karamojo Safari — by W. D. M. Bell
Concluding the amazing saga of 'Karamojo' Bell's elephant hunting

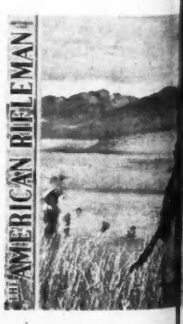
Right Eye . . . Left Hand — by William J. Morden
A noted explorer accepts the challenge of a damaged shooting eye

Deciphering Foreign Rifles — by Fred M. Seguin
Finding the right cartridge and bullet for that 'liberated' rifle

Commando Conversion — by Thomas H. Morgan
A Rifleman how-to-do-it for the pistol shooter with a workshop

COVER

Writes Bob Holland, whose Kodachrome is on this month's cover: "The photo was made in the Owens Valley, Inyo County, California. The particular spot is Fish Slough. I made it between seasons so I could get duck-hunting assistants."



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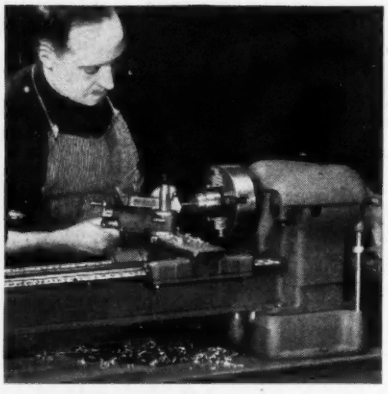

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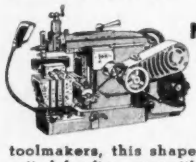

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InCidenTa/Ly

The RIFLEMAN is a lot older than most folks realize. The first issue was published in Boston on May 1, 1885. The magazine was started by Arthur C. Gould, who already had established himself as America's first 'gun editor' by writings which appeared under the pseudonym 'Ralph Greenwood'. The first issue of Gould's magazine, which was called *The Rifle*, consisted of eight pages, on one of which was a list of American shooting societies. Among them was the 'National Rifle Asso'n', which at that time had no connection with the infant magazine. *The Rifle* lasted for three years, then suspended publication.

Gould was quick to recognize his mistake in depending, at that time, on riflemen alone. On July 5, 1888 the first issue of *Shooting and Fishing* went on sale. Gould's new publication had broadened its appeal to take in *all* outdoorsmen. Also, it appeared weekly. This time Gould's venture was successful. His outdoor magazine established a form of journalism which remains effective to this day.

The final issue of *Shooting and Fishing* was dated New York, December 6, 1906, three years after founder Gould's death. With the following issue General James A. Drain became editor-in-chief, and the name of the magazine was once again changed. Changed, too, was the editorial content. Though still a shooters' journal, *Arms and the Man* leaned heavily toward the military, and gradually became a semi-official organ of the National Guard.

The 'modern' period, as far as the RIFLEMAN is concerned, began on June 29, 1916. General Drain, unable to make a go of *Arms and the Man*, decided to let the National Rifle Association see what it could do. For "one dollar and considerations" the tottering publication was handed over to the association whose doings it had so long reported.

During the next seven years *Arms and the Man* remained a weekly. Gradually, however, the character of its editorial content changed. The strong National Guard element disappeared as specialized publications took over in that field. On June 1, 1923, in recognition of an obvious trend, the name of the thirty-eight year old magazine was changed to THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN.

One of the interesting sidelights of the story is that the RIFLEMAN still goes to one of A. C. Gould's original subscribers. When Gould started *The Rifle*, one of his friends was a young shooter who lived in nearby Malden. The youngster, who was even then making a name for himself among the clan of powder burners, subscribed beginning with Volume 1, Number 1. Until 1921, when he moved from Malden to Dowagiac, Michigan, he maintained a complete file of *The Rifle* and its successors. Arthur Gould's young friend was Adolph Niedner, famed riflemaker and associate of almost every 'big name' of American shooting over the last half century. Now retired and living quietly in Dowagiac, 'Pop' Niedner still goes to an occasional rifle match. And, as it has for almost all of his life, the magazine Arthur Gould started in Boston in 1885 finds its way regularly to his mailbox. We're proud that we still have Adolph Niedner's name on one of our membership stencils. Not only because he is a fine riflemaker and one of the all-time greats of our game, but because he's kept his faith in us for so many years. We hope he still finds the magazine interesting.

JS

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Ricochets . . .

SPICY VENISON

Logan, Utah

Editor:

I was very much interested in the article, "Harvesting a Prime Buck". I would like to add one point of interest. Carry a small can of black pepper with you and sprinkle the fresh body cavity thoroughly as soon as the stomach, etc., are removed. Not only does this discourage flies and other insects, but it causes the flesh to dry very quickly. The small amount that doesn't wash out when you are ready to cook the venison acts as a seasoning that would normally be added.

I have never known of a deer left in the woods to be bothered by other animals such as the coyote after a good application of pepper.

JIM MCCLELLAN

CONTAINS NITROGLYCERIN

Penns Grove, N. J.

Editor:

An error has crept into your estimable magazine. In the article on "Modern Gunpowders" (page 26, October) du Pont Pistol Powder No. 6 is described as "a dense nitrocellulose or single-base pistol powder". This powder contains nitroglycerin and is, therefore, a dense *double-base* pistol powder. I thought you might wish to acquaint the author with this fact.

WALLACE H. COXE
Explosives Department, Burnside Laboratory, E. I. Du Pont de Nemours & Company

FRANK WESSON RIFLES

319 S. Wabash Ave.
Chicago 4, Illinois

Editor:

I shall be very grateful if you can help in connection with the following:

In the March 1948 issue of THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN there appeared an article by Ned Roberts on Creedmoor rifles. On page 20 there is a cut showing several rifles, among them the number 1, 2 and 3 Frank Wesson rifles. What I would like to learn is who may be the present owner of the number 3 type, which is the center-hammer model pictured. I do not wish to buy it, but to compare it with one that I own.

JOHN AMBER

WANTED: 150-GRAIN

Menominee, Michigan

Editor:

Who are the master brains of the American ammunition industry who decide what type of sporting ammunition should be shipped where?

There hasn't been any 150-grain .30-'06 stuff available here in this community (in the heart of the greatest deer hunting area in the nation) for years. Along comes the announcement by the Olin people that the new "Silvertip" is now available in 150 grain—so we patiently wait for it to arrive. It arrives as we find out in the hardware stores BUT out of seven retail outlets checked only one had even 180-grain stuff and the remainder had *only 220-grain stuff* (a good moose load). Not a box of 150-grain bullets entered this area to the best of my knowledge.

The writer checked with a large wholesale hardware concern. Their annual large shipment of approximately one-half carload of sporting ammunition arrived about ten days ago. What about the many cases of .30-'06? All 220 grain!

Every hunter that I know who has a .30-'06 is after some of the new 150-grain stuff but you can't buy it. The retail stores, some of them, say they order it but cannot obtain it. What is the matter?

R. F. SUNSTROM, Secretary
Spruce Creek Hunting Club

COMMERCIAL ENFIELDS

Smithfield, Pa.

Editor:

Here is something that concerns me and other members who have been trying to purchase a rifle from the DCM. In the last issue of the RIFLEMAN it says the Ordnance Department is processing orders received in October of '48. In that issue there are also two dealers who are advertising these rifles for sale. Klein's of Chicago advertises the '03 Springfield and model 1917 Enfield. Beekman Industries of New York sells converted .30-'06's and has been advertising them since I started receiving the RIFLEMAN. Now tell me why I and the thousands of other members can't get one from the DCM?

GEORGE J. KINGAN

● *The Springfield and Enfield rifles which are nationally advertised by several American dealers were not obtained from the United States Ordnance Department or the Director of Civilian Marksmanship. They are guns which were sold to the British as emergency equipment immediately following the German victory at Dunkirk. Being chambered for the .30-'06 cartridge, they were not needed by the British after their production of standard .303 British military rifles became adequate for their military requirements. Several thousand of these guns were therefore reconditioned in England and sold to American importers for resale in the American market. The imports were approved by the American State Department as a part of the effort to help the British obtain more dollar exchange. Neither the NRA, the DCM, nor the United States Ordnance Department has had anything to do with this transaction.*—ED.

WHAT, NO PANTS?

Springfield, Missouri

Editor:

Fired upon (Ricochets, October) for "S... You Want to Go Light," I refuse to take cover.

Shore would admire to meet that tough hombre Jim McClellan. Gosh! No air mattress, no pillow, no pants, no shirt, no towel, no nothin'. In view of all these stern restrictions he imposes upon himself, I am constrained to wonder why he is so insistent that grub be taken along. There are always roots and berries. For that matter, Ma surely takes a gun along for something besides target practice. Hey, come to think about it, maybe his attitude is so Spartan that he leaves his gun behind! I've met a few of these he-man critters in the woods. Invariably they want to borrow something.

BUD JACKSON

"EIGHT MALLARDS"

by Hans Kleiber

Mallards! Long echelons winging fast and high before the brisk November wind. The hunters watch, grow tense, as one flock breaks formation. Framed in the reddening sky they wheel, then sweep down over the marshes in a low, straight glide.

A scene to thrill the sportsman's heart! But it's not often seen today. In many places, game is getting less and less plentiful. Sportsmen must act now to preserve wildlife. You can help by limiting your bag ... by joining and supporting local and national organizations for game conservation and restoration.

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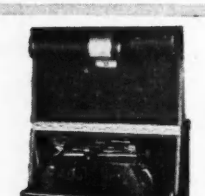

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RIFLEMAN WORDS • • • •

Each month this 'lexicon for shooters' is devoted to a few words peculiar to the shooting game which may be puzzling to the newcomer. All words defined are used in a current article.

BULLET JACKET—The tough outer envelope covering the surface of a bullet. Composed of copper, copper alloy or sometimes steel. Bullet jackets permit higher velocity than is possible with lead bullets, and also permit control of expansion through differing nose structure and thickness. Because of their harder surface, jacketed bullets increase bore wear, thus decreasing barrel life.

CHAMBER PRESSURE—A measurement expressed in pounds per square inch, of the energy generated by combustion of the powder charge in a cartridge. There are three methods of determining pressure which, since the advent of smokeless powder, must be controlled if the firearm is to be safe for use: 1) measuring amount of compression of a copper cylinder by the gases of combustion; 2) measuring amount of electricity generated by gas pressure on a piezoelectric gauge; 3) measuring amount of movement of two steel springs in a Petavel mechanical gauge.

FULL-JACKETED BULLET—A bullet which, with the exception of a small area in the center of the base, has a single jacket covering the entire core. Full jacketed bullets are sometimes referred to as full-patch bullets.

M1 RIFLE—The U. S. Rifle, Caliber .30 M1, a gas-operated, clip-loaded, air-cooled, semiautomatic rifle. It is the official U. S. military rifle, known generally as the Garand.

MACHINE REST—A mechanical device for supporting and holding a rifle during firing so that human errors are eliminated or minimized.

MIKE—Micrometer; to measure an object with a micrometer.

PRIMER POCKET—The circular recess in the base of a cartridge case into which the primer is seated.

WILDCAT—A cartridge made by altering or modifying an existing cartridge case of standard design. Such cartridges are in distinction to standard cartridges produced by ammunition companies for use in weapons of commercial manufacture. Most wildcats are made by altering one or more of the dimensions of an existing cartridge case in order to change the caliber, the length or the powder capacity. Such alterations are made in order to obtain higher velocity, flatter trajectory, or greater accuracy. Once adopted by an ammunition company and placed on the market through regular commercial channels, such a cartridge ceases to be a wildcat.

ZERO—The point at which rifle sights are set so that, with a given load, a given range, and no wind, the bullet will strike the center of a target. The marksman uses this "zero sight setting" as the basic point from which to adjust his sights for different loads, different ranges, and different weather conditions. A gun may be "zeroed in" at any range and with any ammunition. Hence, the term is relative only.

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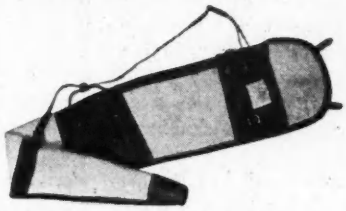

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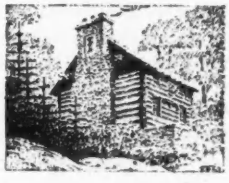

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Simple Arithmetic . . .

On August 24, 1949, USSR Deputy Premier Joroshilov, in a statement in Bucharest, called attention anew to Premier Stalin's twenty-two-year-old definition of a revolutionary as "one who, without any conditions . . . is ready to defend the Soviet Union, since the Soviet is the world's first proletarian revolutionary state building socialism." This was not a statement made in Russia for Russians but was made in Rumania as a warning to the Communists in non-Russian countries that their primary allegiance was to Moscow, not to the land of their birth!

In his book, *State and Revolution,* Lenin said: "Revolution (is) an act in which one section of the population imposes its will upon the other by rifles, bayonets, cannon, etc., and the victorious party is inevitably forced to maintain its supremacy *by means of that fear which its arms inspire in the reactionaries.*"

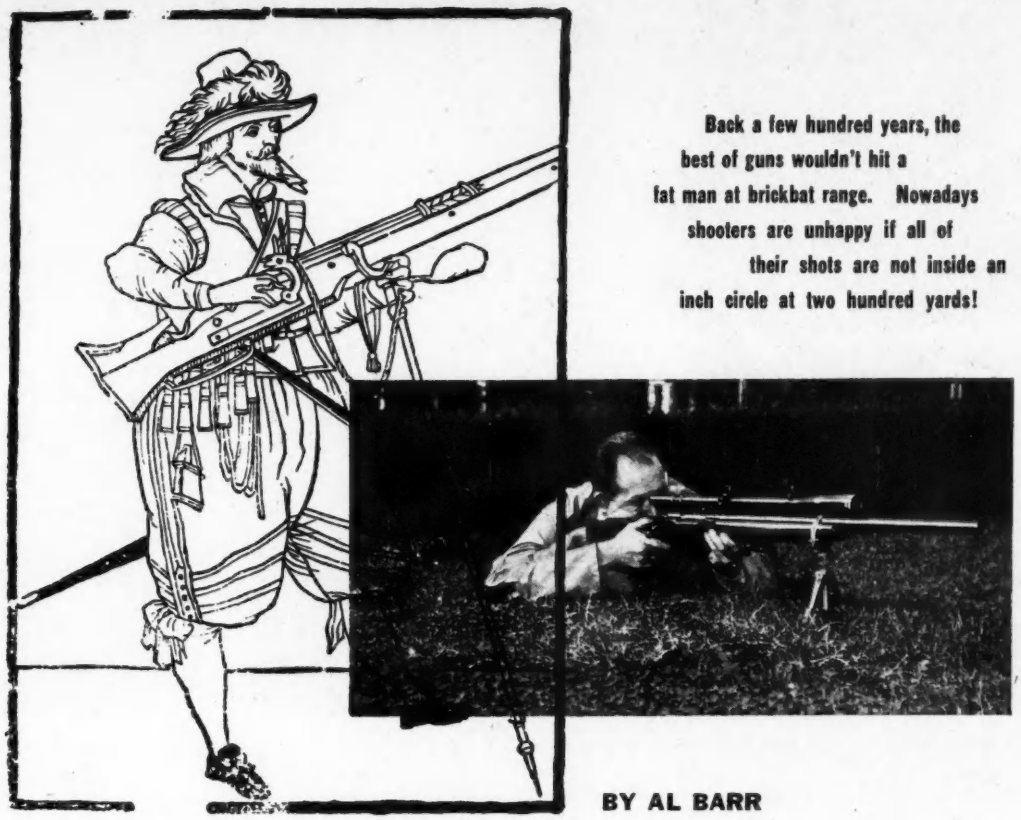
This is the law and the gospel of Communism in America and everywhere else, today as in 1937. Here is the complete answer to those who, shrewdly or simple-mindedly, say that the Communist Party is like any other political party in America, trying to elect its followers to places of political power only to effect, gradually and peacefully, a change in the American system of economy and government. The attainment and the retention of power by force and violence is the whole foundation of the Communist doctrine and the only means of final decision accepted by the Communist Party. The control of the people of the world by the Politburo in Moscow is the only governmental system acceptable to the Communist Party. The Czechs, Hungarians, Poles know it—too late. The Finns, French, Greeks and Italians know it from bitter experience. The Yugoslavs have belatedly discovered it. The police in America know it from a hundred acts of strike violence shrewdly staged to rouse the wrath of American workmen against their local authorities.

Lenin has indicated that the Communist strategy is deeply concerned with two objectives: (1) the arming of the 'right' people, and (2) the disarming of those 'reactionaries' who might meet violence with violence. Communists, like hold-up men, have no over-weaning desire to be shot. Both the Communist and the thug prefer dealing with a disarmed citizenry. Both the Communist and the criminal have proven through the years that they can and will obtain the arms and explosives they want. Despite years of strict government control of small arms in every European nation taken over by Moscow, fully armed bands of Communist Party members have miraculously appeared at exactly the right time and place to impose their will by violence and fear on the disarmed masses of the citizenry. In every case those police who were not willing to go along with the 'new order' have been disarmed and helpless. Here lies the fallacy of believing that governmental control of small-arms manufacture, distribution and possession will prevent either criminal or Communist activity.

We certainly do not believe that reputable citizens in America should be encouraged to 'take matters into their own hands' so long as normal governmental functions are in a position to operate. But it is a fact that the Lenin-Stalin gospel teaches revolution by force and violence as the *only* and the *inevitable* method for successful overthrow of our system of government. Therefore, instead of seeking laws to discourage the training of our loyal citizens in the proper use of small arms it would be wiser for our authorities to seek by every means in their power to encourage that training. Perhaps that great segment of our population which is loyal to the American ideal might thereby, quite peaceably, 'maintain its supremacy by means of that fear which its arms inspire' in the Hammer and Sickle crew who would destroy us!

Only when the loyal majority has been legally disarmed do we need fear the violence of the illegally armed, disloyal minority. This is not ideology. It is simple arithmetic.

C. B. Lister



Back a few hundred years, the best of guns wouldn't hit a fat man at brickbat range. Nowadays shooters are unhappy if all of their shots are not inside an inch circle at two hundred yards!

BY AL BARR

Still Chasing Rainbows

IF YOU HAPPEN to see a serious individual shooting a heavy, slicked-up bolt-action rifle from a big, heavy bench, with both ends of the rifle propped up on sandbags, don't laugh. He's a bench-rest shooter. He's not shooting that way because he's lazy, or because he can't hit the target if he held the rifle up like a man. What's important to you as a shooter is that he's probably helping to put together the rifle you will be using tomorrow. The rifles of the future are being developed, right now, by these sometimes wild-eyed experimenters who are more interested in how accurate their rifles are than in how accurately they can shoot them.

The bench-rest shooters have come into prominence in the last few years, but the idea started a long time back. As much as a century ago, the best riflemakers in the country produced what they called 40-rod guns, which were designed solely to shoot into the smallest group at the then standard distance of 220 yards. The names of those gunmakers were James, Brockway, Warner, Perry and others. Some of their records have still not been equalled.

After Warner and his contemporaries came another group who shot at 200 yards instead of 220, and some of their records still stand. Their names were Pope, Schalk, Schoyen, Niedner and Zischang. Gradually, they and the gunmakers who came before them built better and better rifles, and just as gradually the sizes of their *average* groups became smaller. Occasionally, there was a 10-shot 200-yard group that still remains unequalled. On averages, day in and day out, the old guns slowly became dependable.

It remained for smokeless powder to give accuracy its big boost. With the .30-40 Krag and, later, the .30-'06 Springfield, group sizes really squeezed down. By 1940, the last year of .30-caliber matches at Camp Perry, it was possible for a good rifleman to keep all of his shots at 200 yards in a four-inch circle. The payoff for long-range accuracy came in the famed Wimbledon match—long-range classic of the Camp Perry events. The Wimbledon was fired at 1,000 yards, and the shooter was allowed to use his own load, his own rifle, and his own way of shooting. Out of that 'any rifle' event came what were then the most accurate arms and ammunition in the world. Old-timers will remember Ben Comfort, who entered the Wimbledon at Perry years ago with a new cartridge in an untested rifle and came in ahead of nearly 2,000 other hopefuls. His cartridge was the .300 Holland & Holland Magnum, which remains to this day one of the most accurate 1,000-yard loadings we have.

That was in 1935, when we were happy to settle for two minute-of-angle groups at the longer ranges. That meant all shots in ten inches at 500 yards, and in twenty at 1,000. Since then a world war has intervened and .30-caliber matches are no longer conducted on a national scale. With them has gone

The Pine Tree rifle range at Johnstown, New York. Ten permanent bench rests are provided. Even so, some shooters prefer their own portable rest

Camp Perry as a testing ground for super-accurate long-range equipment.

Fortunately for the shooting game and the development of new cartridges and rifles, we have the bench-rest shooters. These avid riflemen are the ones who are developing the rifles of tomorrow. Almost without exception, the weapons they shoot are experimental, largely handmade and with custom barrels. Many times handmade bullets are used. Sometimes even actions are of experimental design. The cartridges, likewise, are experimental, and run the gamut from factory loads and accepted 'wildcats' to wild-eyed dreams of basement shops and gun-store bull sessions. Like all dreams, most of them will fall by the wayside, but out of the experimenting and the trial-and-error will come cartridges and rifles that will put all of their bullets into one ragged hole. That is the goal, and already it has been approached. One-hole groups have been achieved often enough already to be a promise. We will perhaps live to see the day when we will have to shoot ¼-inch groups at 100 yards and ½-inch groups at 200 yards to keep up with the winners!

The idea for bench-rest shooting in its present form got underway on the West Coast about five years ago when a group of Seattle-area shooters decided they were tired of unfounded reports of phenomenal groups at 200 and 300 yards and decided to find out how accurate our rifles really are. They organized what they called an 'Annual Sniper's Congress'. The idea was to allow any rifle within reason, any safe cartridge, any rest, and any sights. What the Seattle shooters wanted was a true indication of how accurate our best rifles could be. A report on the first Seattle Sniper's Congress matches appeared in the January 1947 issue of the RIFLEMAN.

In the east, starting in 1947, a group of shooters headed by the well-known Harvey Donaldson of Fultonville, New York, started a series of bench-rest matches at the Pine Tree Rifle Range in Johnstown, New York. In the beginning, the Johnstown riflemen fired three-shot groups at 100 yards and five-shot groups at 200 yards. It was not long before the three-shot groups became so small that, with the agreement of everyone concerned, a standardization of five-shot groups at both 100 and 200 yards became effective. Since then, five-shot groups have become standard in just about every bench-rest event. As a result, direct comparisons can be made between groups fired at widely-separated matches.

From these beginnings the idea has spread over the country until today there are at least a dozen interested groups holding annual bench-rest matches. As the years have passed, the smallest 100-yard group has shrunk from about an inch at 100 yards until today the record stands at an amazing .056 inch, center-to-center, for five shots: That group was made by Clair Taylor of Taylor & Robbins at Oil City, Pennsylvania in July of this year. Before this, the same shooter had placed five shots in .187 inch at 100 yards. At the DuBois, Pennsylvania, matches held on Memorial Day of this year, a five-shot group at 100 yards was fired by D. A. Robbins, the second half of the gunmaking team of Taylor & Robbins, which measured .170 inch! Following that was the phenomenal five-shot group at 100 yards of .119 inch by Al Hoyer of Yeagertown, Pennsylvania, at the Johnstown matches held over Labor Day in 1949. What seems a little discouraging is that, in this particular match, William E. Cotter, of Little Falls, New York, shot a 100-yard group measuring only .210 inch center-to-center which netted him an also-ran second place!

At 200 yards, groups have been reduced proportionately during the past few years. One of the first amazingly small groups at this range was fired in 1948 by Samuel Clark, Jr., with five shots measuring .541 inch center-to-center. In the same year, Chet Leach made a five-shot group at 200 yards which measured .483 inch. The Seattle group did nearly as well in 1949. Their best five shots measured .610 inch center-to-center at 200 yards. Their record for the smallest 100-

yard group, as far as we have it, is .370 inch.

In July of this year, at the Oil City, Pennsylvania bench-rest matches, R. F. White fired a five-shot group at 200 yards measuring .410 inch. This was bettered in August at another of the Oil City, Pennsylvania matches by F. M. Riddle, who fired a group measuring only .399 inch! This, to our knowledge, is the smallest 200-yard group so far for five shots fired in competition. The load used was the 50-grain Sierra bullet and 26 grains of DuPont 3031 powder in a .219 Wasp.

Groups like these are not made with any old rifle. What is the story of today's bench-rest equipment?

Back in the early Seattle sniper's matches, it was a toss-up between the .220 Swift and L. E. Wilson's wildcat version of the same cartridge, which he called the .220 Arrow. Between the two, these cartridges shared nine out of twelve top honors in one year's events. Since then, however, one wildcat cartridge has almost entirely stolen the show. This is the .219 Donaldson Wasp, developed by Harvey Donaldson and his associates who, in 1947, held their first bench-rest matches at Johnstown, New York. The name Wasp has since been copyrighted by Vernor Gipson, the North Salem, Indiana gunsmith who made the first reamers for the cartridge. Later, changes were made by Harvey Donaldson, who increased the neck length from about ¼ inch to nearly 5/16 inch. The two versions of the .219 Wasp appear to be equally accurate and it is probably to toss-up as to which one has won the most matches. As far as frequency of use is concerned, our records indicate that the Donaldson version with the longer case neck is used by more shooters than the Gipson version.

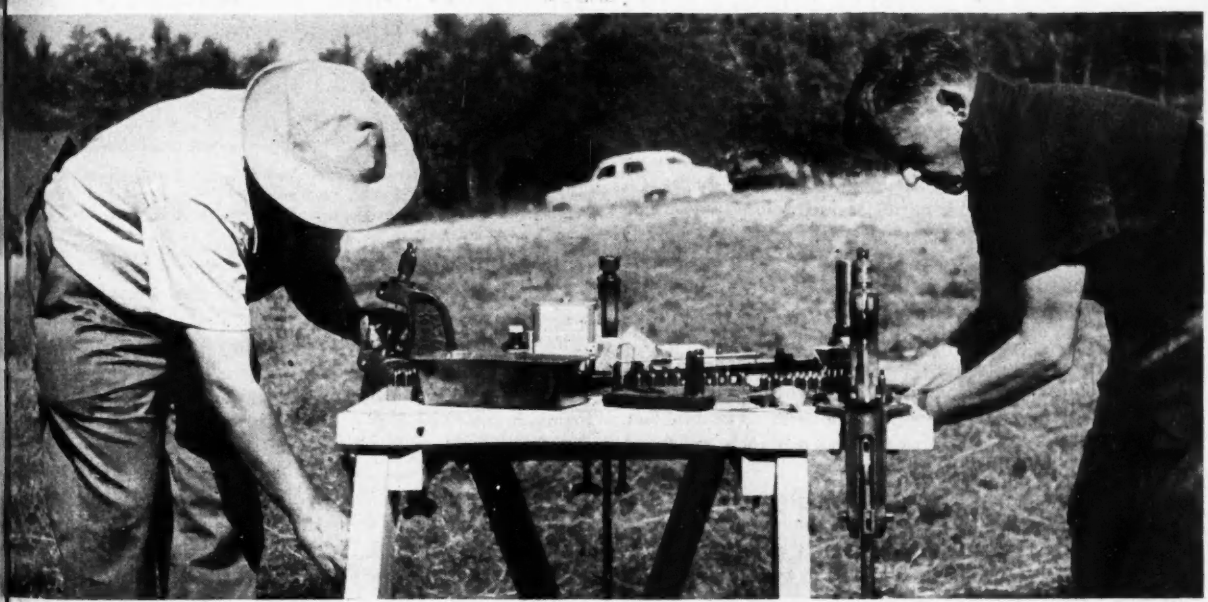
Undoubtedly one of the reasons for the phenomenal accuracy of this cartridge is its relatively short length, approximately 1¾ inches. As a result, the case can be loaded to near maximum volume, thus giving very little air space between the powder and the base of the bullet. This condition has always given uniform powder burning and exceptionally good accuracy. With the loads normally used in the Wasp, the velocity can be anywhere from 3000 to 3700 feet per second. Loads used range all the way from 24 grains of 3031 or 4895 powder all the way up to 28 grains, with most shooters loading 27 to 28 grains. Some of the shooters use as much as 29 grains of these powders, and others use 29 grains of 4320 with 50- and 55-grain bullets. Another light target load which has been quite accurate is 17 to 19 grains of 4198 with either 50- or 55-grain bullets.

This one cartridge has produced nearly all of the phenomenal small-group records we have today. A second reason, of course, is that more work has been done on the .219 Wasp than is true of any cartridge of recent times. As a result, the majority of shooters have been using the .219 in specially built heavy-barreled rifles made by gunsmiths who have taken an unusual interest in bench-rest shooting.

Representative of eastern bench-rest events, at least, are those held during the past summer at Oil City. This small Pennsylvania town has a very active bench-rest club and they have been fortunate in getting good results. During the summer, which included at least three tournaments, the most popular cartridge by far was the .219 Wasp, used by 50 percent of the shooters. The .22-250 or Varminter wildcat was next in popularity, with twelve percent of the riflemen taking their chances with it. The Improved Zipper was next with a ten percent popularity and the .220 Swift, eight percent. Other wildcat cartridges in various stages of development totalled twenty percent.

During 1949 the outstanding commercial bullets used in bench-rest events were Sierra 50 and 55 grain, made by the Harris Machine Company, 9212 E. Bermudez, Rivera, California. As is true of small-bore rifles, all of the better bench-rest guns must be tried with different bullets in order to get the last fraction of their potential accuracy. At one time, it was believed that bullets should be .0005-inch smaller than the groove diameter of the barrel. Learning from experience, though, it is believed today that for the relatively moderate loads used for the best groups, bullets should be almost exactly the same size as the groove diameter of the barrel.

Until the recent popularity of Sierra bullets, many good shooters used what they called 'soft-swaged' bullets. These were home-made in RCBS or similar custom dies. Most shooters found them best when made with a minimum of pres-



Bench rest shooters often load one cartridge at a time while on the range. Shooter on right is Lucian Cary, author and gun editor of 'True' magazine

sure, and so swaged that a hollow cavity remained in the nose where the lead core failed to fill. Also desirable were noticably rounded edges at the base. These bullets still give best accuracy in some rifles, but have largely been supplanted by the fine commercial bullets available from Sierra in the hands of most top winners of today.

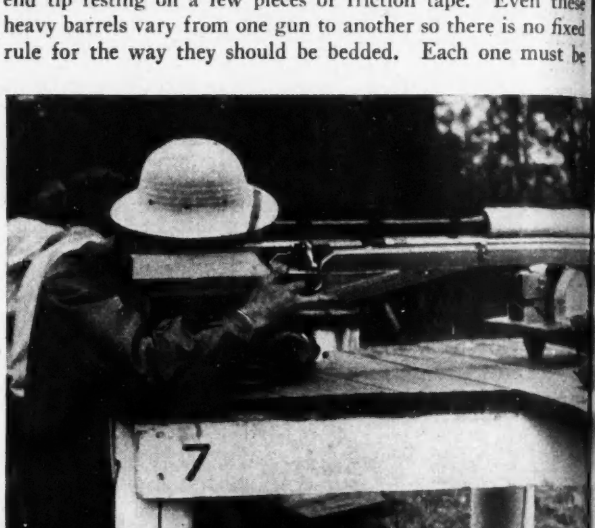
Who makes the barrels for this super-accurate shooting? Those made by the Pfeifer Rifle Company, 11252 Penrose Street, Roscoe, California, have done very well in many of the matches, especially those held at Seattle. In the east, the most popular barrels are those of John L. Gregoire, Box 412, Chester, Connecticut. Gregoire started out a few years ago making his super-accurate barrels of a very soft steel, and shooters soon found that gilt-edge accuracy was lost after firing from 200 to 500 rounds. Learning from experience, Gregoire now is making his barrels of a so-called hard steel to give longer barrel life. Some of these are shooting exceptionally well.

The popularity of Gregoire's barrels is indicated by the top winners in the recent Johnstown, New York matches, where more than 85 shooters were registered. Nine of the top fifteen winners used Gregoire barrels. In the same fifteen, two were made by G. R. Douglas. A Pfeifer barrel was used by Al Hoyer, the Yeagertown, Pennsylvania gunsmith, when he made that amazingly small five-shot group measuring .119 inch. G. R. Douglas is making some exceptionaly fine barrels; Joe Pfeifer is doing the same and can furnish a special selected and lapped barrel of the type used by Al Hoyer. Matches have been won with barrels made by J. R. Buhmiller, Kalispell, Montana, and Vernor Gipson, North Salem, Indiana. Others have used the very fine Winchester .220 Swift blanks fitted by individual gunsmiths. Barrels range in size all the way from a straight taper to ¾ inch at the muzzle up to a perfectly straight blank measuring nearly 1¼ inches in diameter. Barrels are usually quite long, or up to 31 inches. A rifle made up with a straight barrel 31-inches long will weigh close to nineteen pounds, complete with scope. Generally though, the barrels are ordered pre-turned with a straight taper from about 1¼ inches at the breech to 1-1/16 inches or 1⅛ inches at the muzzle. Gregoire does not like to furnish a barrel unless he pre-turns it slightly before it is bored.

Rifling twist is almost standard—one turn in fourteen inches. A few barrels have been made with one turn in sixteen inches for the lighter 50-grain hollow-point bullets. The best bet, though, seems to be to stick to the fourteen-inch twist. A groove diameter of .224 inch is preferred.

Strangely enough, few bench-rest shooters have gone over to the electric bedding device, despite its outstanding performance with small-bore rifles. Three of the devices, however, were seen at Johnstown, New York and one was used by Samuel Clark, Jr., fitted around his Douglas barrel. Although Clark did win fifth place in one day's aggregate at Johnstown with a .566-inch average, he indicated that so far the bedding device had neither harmed nor improved his grouping with that particular combination. Mr. Clark, as well as Judson Darrow, who also had a bedding device fitted to a heavy-barreled Wasp, indicated that the one objection they see so far to the bedding device on high-velocity center-fire rifles is that the group or point of impact will change as the barrel heats up. The barrel is held firmly between either three or four adjusting screws. The third shooter had much the same reaction.

When the shooters were approached on the proper method of bedding the barrel and the stock, the expected answer was received. Some of the better shooters had their barrels free-floating and others had them tightly bedded, either all the way or part way up the forearm. Some have the barrel at the fore-end tip resting on a few pieces of friction tape. Even these heavy barrels vary from one gun to another so there is no fixed rule for the way they should be bedded. Each one must be



Wayne E. Leek, Remington test engineer, designed this special rifle for bench-rest matches. Stock is of aluminum. Barrel and action rest on pouvel bearings, and are so arranged that they recoil straight backward in steel

tested individually to find out which way it will shoot best. Taylor & Robbins indicate that they bed the barrel snugly all the way from the action up to the first vibration node or still point and then the barrel is left free from there to the tip of the fore-end.

Several years ago one well-known gunsmith, who was making up many fine bench-rest rifles, insisted on using the model 70 Winchester action. Since that time, from the records we have, the Mauser has become first choice of most of the gunsmiths. Among the Oil City bench-rest shooters the Mauser is first in popularity, with the Springfield second, the Winchester third, and the Enfield fourth. Practically none of the record groups have been made with the once-popular single-shot rifles such as the old Winchester and Sharps Borchardt. One of the reasons, undoubtedly, is that to shoot the kind of groups necessary to win, the single shot must be worked over completely. Such a rifle probably can be made to shoot as accurately as a bolt action, but so much extra work would be required that few gunsmiths can be interested.

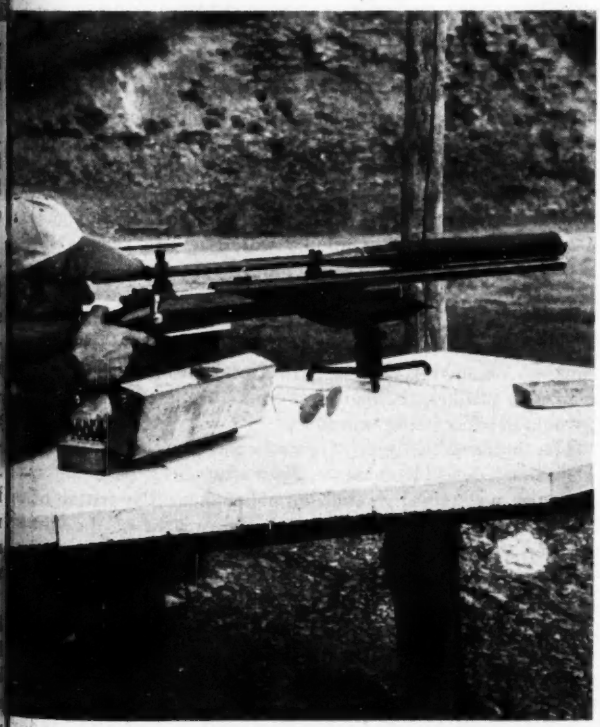
More than an action and barrel is required for this kind of shooting, and part of the credit for these amazingly small groups must go to the gunsmiths who do the barrel fitting and chambering. The Pfeifer Rifle Company is specializing in this kind of work on the West Coast and in other parts of the country some of the outstanding gunsmiths (who also shoot in the matches) are L. R. Wallack, Jr., Langhorn, Pennsylvania; Al Hoyer, Yeagertown, Pennsylvania; Rk. Nelson, Route 2, DuBois, Pennsylvania; and Vernor Gipson, North

Salem, Indiana. Another gunsmith who has made up some of the better bench rifles is Vaughn Cail, 123 Sheldon Terrace, New Haven, Connecticut. Wilbur Hauck, West Arlington, Vermont, does his own work and Judson Darrow, Woodbury, Connecticut, another bench-rest shooter, does very fine barrel fitting and chambering. There are unquestionably many other gunsmiths who can do equally good work and mention should be made of Al Marciante, 1216 Princeton Avenue, Trenton, New Jersey, and George Schielke, Route 2, Trenton, New Jersey. Most of these men, incidentally, prefer to make the reloading tools at the time the rifle is made.

We asked D. A. Robbins, who has been the outstanding shooter in 1949, to give us some tips on how he obtains such remarkable accuracy. With his Gregoire barrel, chambered by himself for the .219 Wasp, Robbins had a 100-yard average for eight consecutive five-shot groups of only .425 inch on one day at Johnstown. On the following day, for the same number of shots, he averaged .441 inch. At the DuBois, Pennsylvania matches in May 1949, Robbins made a group measuring .170 inch at 100 yards. At the Oil City, Pennsylvania matches in August 1949, Robbins had a 200-yard average for five consecutive groups of .984 inch. Finally, he fired 80 consecutive shots, over two days, which were inside the .89-inch ten ring of the 50-yard small-bore target at 100 yards! Here are his comments:

"At Johnstown, New York I was shooting 25.9 grains of 3031, using the Sierra 55-grain bullet. I check my cases very carefully, weigh all of my powder charges, and weigh and check my bullets. I use the 1/10,000 mikes on bullets and check to get all of them as near as possible to size.

"One of the most important factors for accurate loading is to have reloading tools which are as accurately made as the rifle itself. They should be made to about the same measurements as the chamber and be held to close tolerances. The tools which I use are of the hand type, and are made of hardened tool steel. The neck die is made to the correct length of the case and the case can then be kept to the right length. I use a file for trimming the cases. The cases are sized to about half the length of the neck. The bullet seater is a manual type and is made to very close tolerances. These are the same as the tools I make up for my customers when they get a barrel job. There is so much difference in case sizes that it is hard for the commercial makers of reloading tools to provide exactly the right tool for the reloader."



Clair Taylor of Rixford, Pennsylvania, is one of country's best bench-rest shooters. Taylor set top 100-yard record by putting five consecutive shots in group which measured .056-inch, center to center! Rifle was .219 Wasp

Robbins' comments on how he selects components for his ammunition bring up another question. At the DuBois, Pennsylvania matches in May 1949, we got the impression that most of the shooters merely measured and did not weigh their powder charges. In popularity, the Belding & Mull and Saeco measures were used more than any others.

At the Johnstown matches, we learned that F. M. Riddle of Oil City, Pennsylvania, who has made some amazingly small groups and good averages, not only weighs his bullets for uniformity but mikes them as well and weighs all of his powder charges. Most of the shooters, though, reload their own ammunition between matches and sometimes use five or ten selected cases. Occasionally even the cartridge cases are weighed for uniformity, but usually the selected cases are obtained by test firing and only cases which give good accuracy are used. When a flyer or wide shot occurs, that case is discarded.

Often when going into a match, a shooter finds his rifle not working too well in the first few relays. When this occurs, he frequently boosts his powder charge. Al Hoyer, who has done some outstanding shooting, does this merely by adjusting the metering tube of his B&M measure and records only the setting. For example, in one match he started out with the measure set on seventeen. When the load did not shoot, he increased it by boosting the measure setting to 17½.

Most of the shooters using Wasp rifles stick to the Winchester 115 primer, although others use the Winchester 120 and the Remington 9½. The cartridge cases must be selected carefully. Flashhole diameter, case length, and uniform weight should be checked. Apparently, all of the extra work of weighing the powder and bullets pays off when you have one of those amazingly accurate barrels like those used by Riddle and Robbins.

This brings up another factor. The average bench-rest shooter gives a lot of credit to his barrel. Once in awhile a shooter gets what he calls a 'hot' one. When a barrel of that kind is obtained, it seems that anything within reason in the way of handloading will give good accuracy. There is no possible way to get a barrel like this from any barrelmaker; it is pure luck. With one of these unusual barrels in the hands of a good shot, he usually makes a record for himself as long as the barrel lasts.

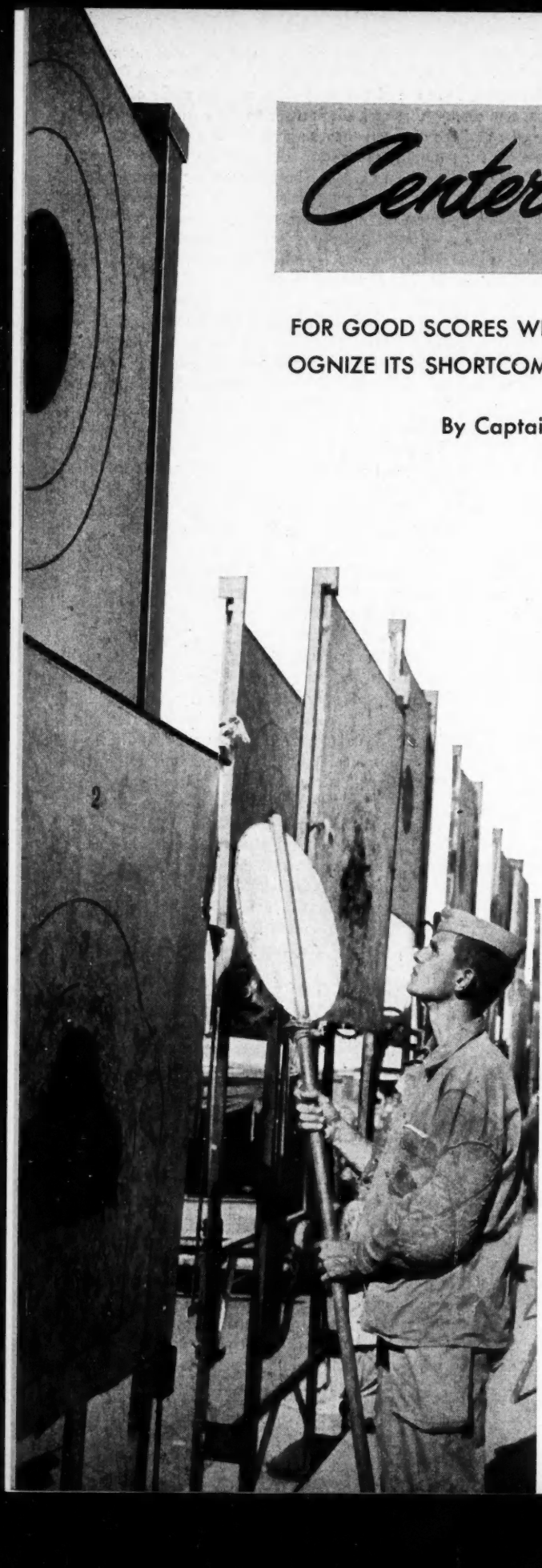
Not all of the matches have been won with extremely heavy rifles. The fine showing of the .22-250 in a lightweight rifle at Seattle adds interest to the game. Another example was the shooting of Gene Hudgins at Johnstown where, with his model 70 Swift chambered by Al Marciante for the .220 Wilson Arrow, he won the 200-yard ten-shot Donaldson Trophy match. His group measured 1.220 inches.

Of added interest have been separate matches in which the weight of rifle and scope is limited to twelve pounds or less. In one recent match of this type, consisting of ten shots at 200 yards, Rk. Nelson of DuBois, *(Continued on page 24)*

Center 5's Again

FOR GOOD SCORES WITH THE GARAND, SAY THE MARINES, RECOGNIZE ITS SHORTCOMINGS AND CONDITION YOURSELF TO IT

By Captain Thurman E. Barrier, USMC



FROM 1903 TO 1941 shooters used the M1903 Springfield service rifle, commonly known as the '03. During those years the old adage 'Familiarity breeds contempt' did not hold true. Riflemen learned to love and revere the old Springfield as, from year to year, they became more and more familiar with its eccentricities. Scores with the Springfield gradually climbed until the shooter was disappointed with anything less than a V-five.

When match competitions were resumed in the Marine Corps in 1946, moans and groans were heard reverberating from the butts to the firing lines on all ranges from the Pacific to Quantico. Shooters who had fired the Springfield in match competition thought well of the Garand in battle but they were inclined to be distrustful of it on the range.

The annual competitive shooting program in the Marine Corps calls for a rifle team match in which representative 10-man teams from each of the divisional competitions and units of the Fleet Marine Force are entered. The match is fired over a provisional National Match course consisting of ten shots at 200 slow fire, ten shots at 200 rapid fire, ten shots at 300 rapid fire, ten shots at 500 slow fire and twenty shots at 600 slow fire. The 1946 winning team made a score of 2745x3000. Not good, we thought. Give us back the old '03, was the cry. However, with a return to the Springfield being out of the question, the boys dried their eyes and started thinking. Knowing they had the Garand to shoot regardless of likes or dislikes, the logical step was to improve the M1 so it would produce better scores.

The 'butchers' started. Garand came out with some first-line armory dope (RIFLEMAN, September 1947, page 11) and gradually we started finding out what made the critter tick. In 1947 scores began improving. The winner of the Intra-Division team match scored 2802x3000, with one young lieutenant making 288x300. Along came 1948, and 280's were becoming common. Winning team of the match that year produced a score of 2811x3000 for a 281.1 average per firing member. The high pair in the 1948 match, shooting members of the winning team, made 573x600. Scores were fired with 167-grain armor-piercing ammunition. The M1 appeared to have arrived.

Most of the changes made to the M1 to produce a more accurate weapon can be found in John Garand's article but there were a few 'top-secrets' that developed during competition firing which proved of value.

For years the Marine Corps had gradually developed positions that were thought to be the accepted pattern for excellence in '03 firing. With the M1, positions had to be changed. Loose slings, habitually used with the '03, did not work with the M1. We found that the tighter the sling, to a point, the tighter the group. So all shooters took up three and four notches on their slings. Also, it was found more necessary to emphasize follow-through with the M1 than had been customary with the '03. Also, the sight problem came into the picture. The sights were obviously too large for target work so they had to be modified, cutting the front sight down to about a No. 5 or 6 and filling in the rear sight and reboring the aperture to a smaller diameter. But, alas, the procedure was absolutely forbidden under the penalty of being literally booted off the firing line if caught.

Long discussions of sight alignment could be heard throughout the bunkhouses of the shooters' realm. One system after another was advocated with sworn testimony that it was the only solution to the sight alignment problem.

One shooter was heard to say, "Put the bullseye in the center of the peep, then ease the front sight up to the black."

"Oh, no," another said, "the old system is the best. Always place the tip of the front sight in the center of the peep and ease the entire sight alignment up to six o'clock."

"Bring the square platform at the bottom of the front sight up to the point where it can barely be seen in the bottom of the peep, then ease the sight picture up to six o'clock on the bullseye," another crusader advocated.

In every suggestion there was one factor evident—the admission that it was harder to hold elevation and align the Garand sights at the longer ranges than it had been with the '03. Regardless of the system, it was realized that a perfect picture had to be seen in order to insure any two shots striking within any approximation of the same point on the target.

Trigger adjustment was found to be much simpler on the M1 than on the '03. But what was the answer to 'Do we squeeze the trigger or pull the trigger?' Another bull session was in order. Most of the boys ended up freezing the thumb and trying to use a straight rearward pull with the trigger finger, one that is more or less similar to the pull generally used with the .45-caliber pistol.

The offhand or standing position was found to be the easiest to adopt for the Garand. Due mainly to the nice balance of the M1 and the ease of trigger adjustment, the average shooter, using the same offhand positions recommended for the '03, made much better scores with the M1 than he had been accustomed to make with the '03. Ten-shot possibles were made daily somewhere along the line. The offhand position for the normal shooter can be described as follows: Weight of the body equally on both feet, feet spread apart about two feet at an angle of about 45 degrees from the target, the left hand serving as a rest only, making certain that the left hand does not attempt to guide the weapon, moving the feet and not the left hand to gain the desired direction to the target. The right hand is the whole story in offhand shooting, gripping the small of the stock to and just below the pressure point where the piece is seen to tremble, pulling the piece back into the shoulder firmly, freezing the cheek solidly on the stock and controlling the breath as well as not breathing when pulling the trigger. The position is, of course, for a right-handed shooter, but it works just as well in reverse for a left-handed shooter.

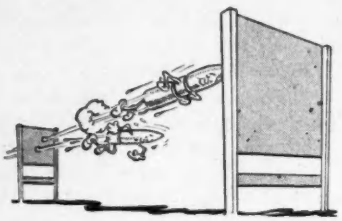
The old expression of "letting your belly muscles sag" is about the best description ever given of the relaxed offhand position. When the wind blows in the offhand position, there is a different story. You just cuss and try to get the shot off as you flow by the target. Some hits are good, some are bad, and shooting is no fun at any time.

The sitting position with the Garand is very similar to the '03 position except that the shooter needs to be more behind the piece. With his feet again about two feet apart, the shooter bends well over between his knees and places his elbows about halfway down the shanks of his legs. With no bolt action to worry about, the basic elements in position are (1) freezing the piece and (2) getting off a fast, even pull. It is believed preferable for the shooter to cross his legs before going down into position, squatting without the aid of his hand on the ground and thus saving two or three seconds getting the piece into the shoulder for the rapid-fire stage. In kneeling, the hand controlling the trigger pull is the leading factor. The piece should be pulled back tightly into the shooter's shoulder and—again—follow-through is essential.

The prone position gave the boys the most trouble. It was found that the body should be almost directly behind the piece, the right leg making an extension of the rifle to the rear. It is necessary to get higher off the ground, to have the sling adjusted tightly and to clamp the right hand on the small of the stock, pulling the piece into the shoulder. The cheek is held firmly against the comb of the stock. The left hand, which has no part in the performance except that of a prop, is used again only as a rest. Breathing in the prone position must be perfectly controlled and coordinated with the sight picture and trigger pull. After the basic sight picture has been picked up, raising the sight picture to the bullseye can be done by exhaling a little and holding the breath as the perfect picture appears. It was found with the Garand that par over the 500-yard and 600-yard slow-fire stages (a total of 30 rounds) was 143x150, a performance comparable to the '03 at the same distances.

The dope to be kept in the plotting scorebook was the next change we had to go through. In the old days with the '03, shooters had a micrometer to change sights and a close guess for windage (a very slight eighth could be heard up and down the line). The so-called micrometer sights are installed on the M1 but when firing the weapon *(Continued on page 34)*

The dope kept in a scorebook had to be changed when it was found that one click of the M1's rear sight does not equal one inch for every 100 yards



WHERE THEY HIT!

A Comparison of .25 Caliber Wildcats

BY ROBERT HUTTON

SINCE LYLE KILBOURN first blew out the little .22 Hornet case in an enlarged and altered chamber about 1932, thus creating an improved cartridge which fired a faster bullet by increasing powder capacity, shooters have been experimenting with other standard cases of all calibers in an effort to provide better ballistics. Their efforts have been successful. In the most complete tests possible within the past year, the .25 calibers have been found to give better ballistics with good combustion when more powder can be used.

The information contained in this article is the result of trajectory tests over ranges up to 500 yards with a number of the .25-caliber rifles. All but two are chambered for wildcats, and some were made up especially for the tests. The two standard cartridges were included in the test, with the best handloads their owners could produce for comparison.

Judging from the results of the .25-caliber tests alone, it seems obvious that the specific technique of enlarging cases to hold more of the modern slower-burning powders has resulted in the greatest step in cartridge development since the advent of smokeless powder in the early nineties.

It is admitted that in most instances where improved cartridges are employed, barrel life is probably shorter. It must be so; the bullets move faster. That's what the gray heads declared back in 1892-94 when the .30-30 and the .30-40 were being tested. But nickel-steel barrels resulted then and better barrels than we have today are bound to turn up day after tomorrow. Let it be understood that the tests reported here were not made with just a few shots, and that all of the barrels, several of them of factory manufacture, are going hunting this fall. One barrel had been used at least 1500 times.

The modern or improved cartridges took many years to perfect, and in the resultant form are probably transitory. After Kilbourn had improved the .22 Hornet, Harvey Donaldson treated the .22 Lovell in similar manner, but both are small rimmed cases. Ralph Waldo Miller, E. Baden Powell, P. O. Ackley, Roy E. Weatherby, Joe Pfeifer, friends across the Canadian border, and others, all tried the technique of fire-forming large cases that had been necked down to smaller calibers, and also fire-forming cases without altering the calibers. It was soon learned that the actual 'blowing-out' of the cases merely constituted part of the technique of handloading, and that it was in its new size, always wider and often shorter, that a case gave improved results, usually with the slower-burning powders.

Two notable exceptions among modern wildcat cartridges are the .22 Varminter by Jerry Gebby and the .220 Wilson Arrow, which are not blown out or fire-formed. They are standard cases necked and resized, but the intent of altering case design was not to obtain faster velocities but to improve accuracy. Obviously the aim has been accomplished.

But to get back to the experiments. For nearly a year about ten shooters have been trying to learn something about the .25-caliber wildcats. Where and how are the bullets hitting at 500 yards? Are they tipping? Are they grouping well? How about 400 yards? And 300, and 200 and 100 yards? Chronograph readings have given some interesting figures, but a chronograph has no relationship to accuracy or to the bullet that may be tipping when it gets out in the sagebrush.

To answer the above questions tests were made by shooters of known ability and experience on suitable rifle ranges with all points measured, using as many .25-caliber wildcat rifles as possible. Al Barr of the NRA, Colonel Townsend Whelen and C. G. Moffat, the bulletmaker, were asked to help formulate the 'rules' for what might be described as a shooting match, incorporating the suggestions of the participating shooters. An attempt was made to get each well-known .25 caliber wildcat represented, with special reference to powder capacity, but shoulder angle or free-boring was not ignored.

The fine new 100-grain Moffat two-diameter bullet was chosen for use in the test, and all shooters but one elected to load with No. 4350 powder. The rules were simple. Each shooter, having developed his best load, fired a group of five shots at 100 yards after he had zeroed for that distance. He then fired at 200, 300, 400 and 500 yards—five shots at each target. He then measured the group size and the amount of drop at each range in inches. Such tests, it was felt, would give some information on each specific cartridge and a valuable comparison of them all.

Accuracy was not considered the criterion of the shooting tests. Flat trajectory or drop, to use Al Barr's word, was. But since groups must be reasonably tight to have the trajectory measurable, we settled upon two minutes of angle, or average, as the criteria. Therefore, average groups for the five distances are frequently two minutes of angle or better.

If we had been shooting for groups alone, we surely would have dropped a few grains of powder. The object was to get the best velocity from each caliber—with reasonable accuracy. This I mention despite the fine accuracy that was obtained by Leonard Mews with Roy Weatherby's .257 Magnum. In trajectory alone, Lyle Corcoran's .25 Magnum CCC was slightly flatter at some of the distances. But you will want to study these tables for yourselves.

Note that many of the 100-yard groups were only passable good—obviously because the loads were designed for longer distances, and the bullets had not yet 'gone to sleep'.

Drop and accuracy figures for the wildcat cartridges used in these tests, made over ranges of one, two, three, four, and five hundred yards, are given in the table on the opposite page. Details of the rifle in which each load was fired, with comments on conditions under which the shooting was done and pertinent remarks by the shooter, will be found on the following pages.—ROBERT HUTTON.

.250 Savage

Cartridge: .250-3000 standard case, 2.625-inch overall length.
Load: 37.4 grains of No. 4064 (excessive in lever-action rifles).
Rifle: M70 Winchester Supergrade, standard barrel of 14-inch twist, Lyman 10X Super Targetspot scope mounted 1.46 inches above center of bore.

The shooter, Jack Henninger, said: "I was after X-ring accuracy with both jacketed and lead-alloy bullets. . . . Two years ago Clarence Moffat discussed with me his thoughts for a new .25-caliber bullet. Both of us had taken Dr. Mann's experiments to heart and knew his recommendation for the most accurate bullet design: one of bore diameter with a groove diameter base band. Carl Cramer's .25-caliber gas-check bullet No. 55A was designed on this principle and it gave me my first X-ring gas-check bullet accuracy. Moffat then made his new jacketed bullet and gave me ten to test. Result was nearly a one-half inch group at 100 yards. In the present test for trajectory I raised the load slightly. Cases were unselected, powder thrown with the Saeco measure, range conditions ideal."

.257 Roberts

Cartridge: .257 Roberts case loaded to 3-inch overall length.
Load: 47 grains of No. 4350.
Rifle: Saturn sporter with 10-inch twist Pfeifer barrel, Lyman Alaskan scope plus 8X Litschert attachment. Rifle made by Gun & Rod Shop, Santa Monica, California.

Shooter and owner Ernest Crowley commented: "I have had minute-of-angle groups with this sporter with slightly lighter loads. With Kirksite "A" bullets and 43 grains of No. 4320 it delivered two .750-inch groups at 100 yards. I think the load used in this test with the fine Moffat bullet brings out the flattest trajectory possible with existing powders and the 100-grain bullet. Of course, the bullet was seated so far out that the cartridge would not have gone through the magazine."

.257 Roberts CCC

Cartridge: Standard .257 cases blown out, Venturied, .329-inch neck length, powder capacity of 56 grains of No. 4320, bullet seated so that base of bullet formed continuation of shoulder.
Load: 52 grains of No. 4350.
Rifle: M70 National Match grade with Controlled Combustion Chamberage, free-bored four diameters, by Hollywood Gun Shop, 10-inch twist barrel, 12X Lyman Super Targetspot scope mounted 1.645-inch above bore center line.

See comment following test reported below.

.257 Roberts CCC

Cartridge: Standard .257 Roberts case blown out, Venturied, .329-inch neck length, powder capacity of 56 grains of No. 4320, 3-inch overall length.
Load: 54 grains of No. 4350.
Rifle: Same gun as used in test reported above except that 20X Lyman Super Targetspot was used on it.

Robert Hutton, who made the tests with the .257 Roberts CCC, said: "Two tests were made, with 52 and 54 grains of No. 4350. The 54-grain load would have been too hot with any other bullet of 100-grain weight. But that's one nice thing about free boring. You can pop primers and not worry too much. This barrel now has had more than 1000 rounds fired through it with heavily loaded jacketed bullets, and at least 500 with Kirksite "A" tests at better than 3500 foot-seconds (50-grain 4320 and 64-grain bullet). Accuracy with slightly lighter loads always has been superb. I hold the .25-caliber record for 100 yards on one range—.480 inches, five shots. I think this is a very fine little cartridge and a definite improvement over the .257 Roberts. I have reloaded some cases more than twenty times."

.257 Roberts CCC

Cartridge: Standard .257 Roberts case blown out, Venturied, .329-inch neck length, powder capacity of 50 grains of No. 4320, 3-inch overall length.
Load: 52 grains of No. 4350.
Rifle: Same as used in other tests of .257 Roberts CCC.

"These tests," said Lyle Corcoran, "not fired at all of the ranges, would seem to verify those made with the .257 Roberts CCC."

.257 Roberts ICL Whitetail

Cartridge: Fire-formed .257 Roberts case, .310-inch neck length, 45-degree shoulder angle, 2.24-inch overall length, total powder capacity of 57 grains of No. 4350.
Load: 51 grains of No. 4350 and .033 wad.
Rifle: Saturn custom rifle with light, 20-inch Buhmiller barrel of 10-inch twist, Lyman 10X Targetspot mounted 1.750 inches above center of bore.

Vern Juenke, proprietor of Santa Monica Gun & Rod Shop, who made the gun, said: "This is a fine little gun for the person who wants to take standard factory cases for fire-forming. The accuracy is good."

.25-270 ICL Ram

Cartridge: Reformed .270 WCF case, .375-inch neck length, 45-degree shoulder angle, powder capacity of 66 grains of No. 4350.
Load: 59 grains of No. 4350 and .022 wad.
Rifle: Saturn .25-270 Increased Capacity Load Ram medium sporter with 10-inch twist, Buhmiller barrel of 26-inch length, stocked by Vern S. Juenke. Weaver K-4 Scope with 8X attachment and 1-inch dot mounted 1.485 inch above bore center.

Drop and Accuracy, .25-Caliber Handloads*

	LOAD	100 YARDS Drop	100 YARDS Group (Inches)	200 YARDS Drop	200 YARDS Group (Inches)	300 YARDS Drop	300 YARDS Group (Inches)	400 YARDS Drop	400 YARDS Group (Inches)	500 YARDS Drop	500 YARDS Group (Inches)
.250 Savage	37.4 grs. 4064	0	1.37	4	1.93	12	4.75	31	7.50	57	8.00
.257 Roberts	47 grs. 4350	0	2.06	4	4.87	11.12	4.62	29	4.50	51	13.5
.257 Roberts CCC	52 grs. 4350	0	2.12	2	3.62	11	5.76	26	8.50	44	15
.257 Roberts CCC	54 grs. 4350	0	1.75	0	3.12	9	4.12	23	9.57	48.50	6.68
.257 Roberts CCC	52 grs. 4350	0	1.12	3	3.62					46	10
.257 Roberts ICL	51 grs. 4350	0	1.50	1.9	2.12	10	7.06	23	7.86	45	16
.25-270 ICL	59 grs. 4350	0	1.50	1	2.06	7.25	6.93	19	5.12	40.50	14
.25-'06 Ackley	56.5 grs. 4350	0	1	4.17	1.90	7.95	3.03	21.80	5.83	44	8.50
.25 Ackley Krag	52 grs. 4350	0	1.25	3.12	2.43	10.56	3.12	22	9	48.5	12
.257 Weatherby Mag.	72 grs. 4350	0	1.12	0	2.12	3.34	2.87	13	6.75	28.5	9
.25 Magnum CCC	75 grs. 4350	0	1.12	0	7.25	3.50	8.25	11	9.75	28.5	17
.250 Barr Short Mag.	56 grs. 4350	0	2.30	2.50	3.13	10.50	8.15	26.2	7.30	46.35	11.60
.250 Barr Short Mag.	57 grs. 4350	0	1.28	1.30	3.08	7.45	6.23	17.80	8.10	37.45	12.65

* *All loads with 100-grain Moffat bullet.*

Shooter Juenke said: "Several tests were run with this caliber and different bullets. We found the 100-grain Remington Mushroom Core-Lokt bullet to be the most accurate at all ranges (ten shots under an inch). . . . From these and many other tests, including those with the Moffat bullet, it looks as though we have an extremely efficient .25."

Note that Mr. Juenke's test at 500 yards showed flatter trajectory than the others that used the .30-'06 case with the Moffat bullet. Since so many variations of .25-'06 cartridges were produced between 1910 and 1940 by Major Ned Roberts, Dr. Mann, Colonel Whelen and others, resulting in the transitory .25 Krag and .25 Niedner, Mr. Juenke's report becomes extremely important. It would seem that his .25-270, designed by Arnold and Vern Juenke of the Santa Monica Gun and Rod Shop, along with Ackley's .25-'06, both of them blown out, has provided a fine .25-caliber Magnum cartridge. It definitely shows a great improvement over the .257 Roberts and all of its variations.

LOAD		100 YARDS Drop	100 YARDS Group (Inches)	200 YARDS Drop	200 YARDS Group (Inches)	300 YARDS Drop	300 YARDS Group (Inches)	400 YARDS Drop	400 YARDS Group (Inches)	500 YARDS Drop	500 YARDS Group (Inches)
.250 Savage	Factory	0		4.5		16		38		73	
.257 Roberts	Factory	0		3.5		15		36		70	
.257 Roberts	47 gr. 4350	0	1.68	8.62	4.32	18.25	3.75	38	11.75	64.5	11
.257 Roberts	46 gr. 4350 100 gr. WTC bullet	0		5.25				36		70	
.257 Roberts	47 gr. 4350 100 gr. RCBS bullet	0	0.9	3.70	4.3	11.95	6.55	24.55	7.45	47	6.38
.257 Roberts	44 gr. 4350 125 gr. reformed Barnes bullet	0	.67	2.80	5.58	9.70	3.79	29.0	5.78	52	7.10
.25-.270 ICL Ram	58 gr. 4350 100 gr. Rem. MC bullet	0				8.25				42.50	
.25-'06 Ackley	52 gr. 4350 128 gr. Mallory bullet	0		3.20		8.25		21.40		39	
.250 Barr-Magnum	57 gr. 4350 100 gr. RCBS bullet	0		0.20		6.30		18.40		36	
.25 Barr Short Magnum	52.5 gr. 4350 125 gr. reformed Barnes bullet	0	1.17	3	2.37	8.60	4.78	23.35	7.20	39.50	5.30

.25-'06 Ackley

Cartridge: Reformed .30-'06 case, ⅛-inch neck length, 40-degree shoulder angle, 3.30-inch overall length, total powder capacity of 66 gains of No. 4350.

Load: 56.5 grains of No. 4350.

Rifle: Built on Mauser action with 26-inch Ackley stainless steel barrel of .257-inch groove diameter, stock by Hutchings and Barr, Lyman 15X Super Targetspot mounted 1.65 inches above bore center.

Owner-shooter Al Barr said: "Note that the 300-yard results seem to be erratic. There should have been more drop. I think this was because of peculiar mirage conditions."

.25 Ackley Krag

Cartridge: .30-40 Krag case with .330-inch neck, 40-degree shoulder angle, loaded to 1.2968-inch overall length. Total powder capacity of case with No. 4350 is 55 grains.

Load: 52 grains of No. 4350.

Rifle: Medium-heavy barrel with 10-inch twist on Sharps-Borchardt single-shot action, stocked by D. J. Kennedy, 10X Lyman Junior Targetspot scope mounted 1.7 inch above center of bore.

C. G. Moffat, shooter, remarks: "About 1300 rounds have gone through this gun . . . have a hunch No. 4895 would have done better . . . weather windy as hell! Had to keep cranking on windage as I moved back . . . but you said accuracy was secondary. To top it off, when I shot my 100-yard target and looked for the 200-yard one, it had blown away . . . but the shooting was interesting. . . . I ended up with more drop than I expected . . . think some of the other shooters will, too."

.257 Weatherby Magnum

Cartridge: Case formed from .275, .300 or .375 H&H Magnum case, trimmed to .30-'06 length.

Load: 72 grains of No. 4350.

Rifle: .257 Weatherby Magnum with Lyman 12X Super Targetspot.

Leonard Mews made no comment on his shooting.

.25 Magnum CCC

Cartridge: .300 Magnum case necked to .25 caliber, blown out to hold 85 grains of powder when full, Venturied, free-bored. The .25 Magnum CCC has a slightly longer neck and therefore less powder capacity than the cartridge which was known in its experimental stage as the .257 MVF and, later, as the .257 PMVF.

Load: 75 grains of No. 4350.

Rifle: M70 Winchester Bull Gun with Controlled Combustion Chamberage, 12-inch twist barrel, Lyman 12X Super Targetspot.

Shooter Lyle Corcoran remarked: "This cartridge has the largest powder capacity of any of those tested and, at that, it is a modest offspring of the .257 MVF and PMVF of the early part of this decade. I felt that this cartridge is best suited to the 120- and 125-grain bullets but the results obtained with the 100-grain Moffat look all right, too."

.250 Barr Short Magnum

Cartridge: .300 H&H case trimmed to 2 3/16-inch length, ⅛-inch neck length, 40-degree shoulder angle, total case capacity of 63 grains of No. 4350.

Load: 56 grains of No. 4350.

Rifle: Built on Springfield action with 10-inch twist in 26-inch barrel, stock by Hutchings and Barr, 8X Litschert scope mounted 1.75 inches above center of bore.

This cartridge has been variously described. A full description of it, along with one of the .25-'06 Ackley, will be found in THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN, April, 1947.

.250 Barr Short Magnum

Cartridge: Same as used in the above test.

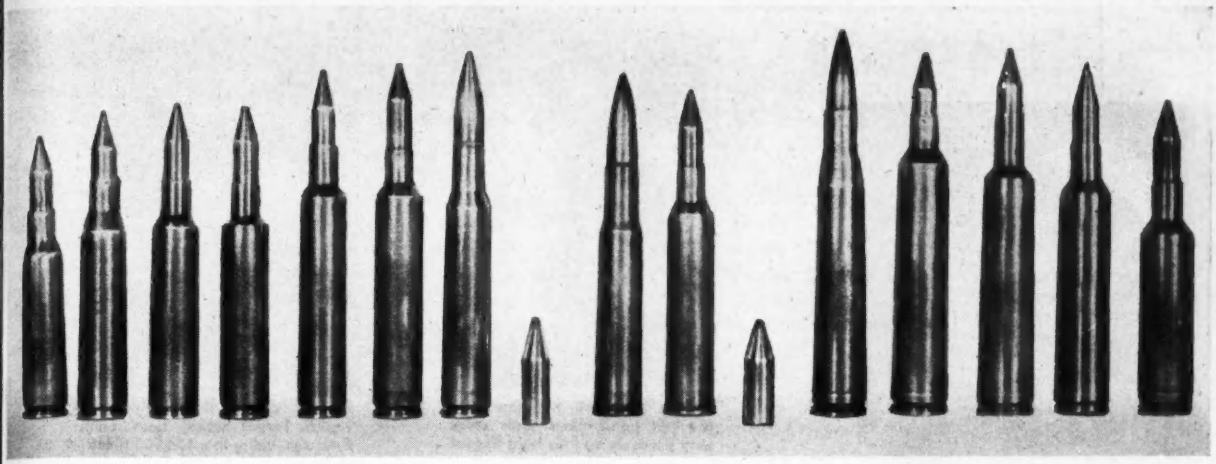
Load: 57 grains of No. 4350.

Rifle: .250 Barr Short Magnum on Enfield action with 12-inch twist barrel, stock by Barr, 8X Litschert scope mounted 2.30 inches above bore center on a bull pup rifle.

Note that by using one grain of powder more than that used in the Springfield in the previous test, the average drop at 500 yards was about eleven inches flatter.

Says Mr. Barr, "Note the accuracy of my bull pup rifle with the short Magnum case. The rifle has had 1400 rounds through it and all full loads. Except for an occasional flyer, which I can expect, I am not at all disappointed in the accuracy of that gun yet. Best accuracy and flattest trajectory was obtained with RCBS 100-grain bullets.

For further comparison, the table above includes drop and group-size figures for additional .25-caliber loads, including



These are the .25-caliber wildcat cartridges used in the drop tests. In the group at left, .250-3000 Savage, .257 Roberts, .257 Roberts ICL Whitetail, .257 Roberts CCC, .25-270 ICL Ram, .25-'06 Ackley are all derivative of the .30-'06. The two cartridges in the center are the .30-40 Krag and the .25 Ackley Krag. The .300 H&H Magnum, at left in the group at right, is the parent cartridge of the .257 PMVF, .25 Magnum CCC, .257 Weatherby Magnum and .25 Barr Short Magnum. The .257 PMVF is believed to have the largest capacity of any .25-caliber case

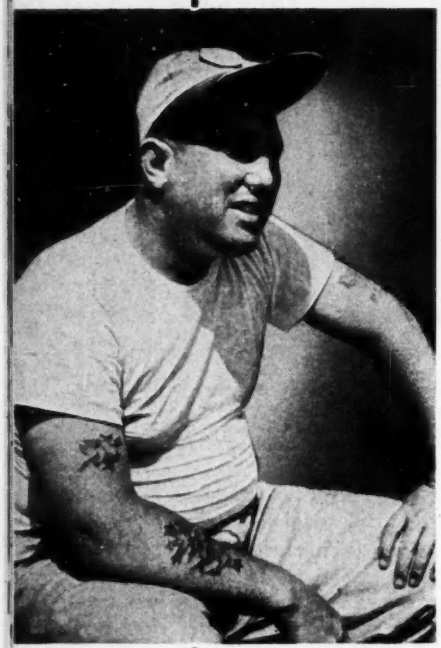
one with the new 128-grain Mallory bullet and two with the 100-grain RCBS. These look alike but the Mallory gains in weight by having a tungsten alloy core. Test was made by Mr. Barr in his .25-'06 Ackley and though the load was dropped to 52 grains of No. 4350 (due to the increased weight of the bullet) note that the drop at 500 yards was only three inches more than that provided by the RCBS bullet with more powder. Accuracy over the 500-yard course, as tested by Mr. Barr, averaged slightly better with these two bullets than with the Moffat. Moffat bullets are not available now but Modern Gun Shop has a good two-diameter bullet.

The 128-grain Mallory bullets used in the test deserve a word of explanation. The sintered tungsten alloy core, known as Mallory 1,000 metal, is a product of P. R. Mallory & Co., Inc., Indianapolis, Indiana. About a year ago we were approached on the possibilities of trying some of this heavy metal as bullet cores, the idea being that of Gordon Graham of Indianapolis and Mr. G. H. Denny of the Special Metallurgical Products Division of the P. R. Mallory Co. The metal has a Rockwell hardness reading of 24 to 30C and a density figure of 16.8, as compared to a density of 11.37 for pure lead. As the alloy is quite machineable, a number of bullet cores were produced with the idea of making a bullet of the identical length of the 100 grain as made in the RCBS bulletmaking dies. With a No. 6 lead shot in the base, and a No. 4 lead shot at the point to cushion the hard core, alloy jackets were formed around the core itself, resulting in a bullet weighing 128 grains but, except for weight, in identical proportions to one with a lead core weighing 100 grains.

The idea was to get as heavy bullet as possible, yet one which would not require an exceptionally fast rifling twist to stabilize it. The 12-inch twist of the .25-'06 Ackley was adequate for the heavy bullet, but the same rifle does not handle the much longer 125-grain Barnes bullet. Added sectional density in the shorter bullet shows definite possibilities, and experiments are being conducted to determine just how accurate a bullet for long-range target shooting can be made in this manner. This interesting experimental bullet was included in the drop test although there were not enough of the bullet cores on hand to develop possibly the most accurate load for this combination. In the test, though, five shots did go into 6.6 inches at 500 yards.

Aside from academic interest, which is integral with every rifleman, what have we learned from these tests? Just this. With the bullets tested, all of the wildcast rifles which participated would seem to provide longer sure-killing ranges than the two standard commercial calibers. Moreover, in the various conversions they have lost nothing in the way of accuracy. From the evidence of the reliable shooters who participated in the tests, barrel life is reasonably good—far better than most of the critics will tell you. One specific conclusion may be made. It sounds trite but few of us believed it until these tests were made: The more powder you can use, with safe pressures, the flatter the trajectory, and that means greater velocity.—Robert Hutton. ◆ ◆ ◆

NEXT MONTH: *Headlining the December issue will be a complete report on the NRA's recently-concluded Second Annual Convention, staged in Denver, Colorado, October 17-21. Also, look for cabled scores from our 12-man international rifle and pistol squad firing in the World Championship matches at Buenos Aires, Argentina (see page 38, this issue). In addition . . . Al Barr with loads for the .22 High Power, Elmer Keith on caring for your big-game trophy, and Charles Niehuis with pictures of an unusual hunt.*



Benner picks up his gun with the left hand, then seats stock very precisely into his right fingers

His Woodsman is an old-style Match Target which has been fired something like 100,000 times

Champ Benner crowds his shootin' finger just as far through the pistol's trigger guard as he can

The Benner grip on a .45 Colt is so hard that his fingertips turn white after a few seconds of aim

the dog-gonnedest sight changer!

By MAJOR CHARLES ASKINS

FOR SOME REASON we have two pistol supermen in these United States who are so unbelievably poisonous as to stand head and shoulders above all other handgunners. These slightly paunchy gun-pointers are the present national champ, Joe Benner, and Harry Reeves, who's held the title three times to Benner's two. While there may exist a few deluded souls who will argue more or less vehemently that they know a champ who is fully as sultry as the two hombres enumerated above, I say let us look at the record. These two have corraled practically all of the handgun high marks in the book. If you don't believe it, scan the tally sheet yourself.

When a feller gets as good as Benner or Reeves the rest of the clan begins to take a lively interest in the kind of breakfast food he likes; how often he bathes; whether he likes blondes or other complexions, and countless other peculiarities. Some nine months ago I commenced to study Benner with the idea of composing this opus. Unfortunately I couldn't bring Reeves into the picture as he was not handy. This yarn therefore will have to be limited to that happy Arkansawyer, Huelet L. Benner—Joe, to you.

Benner has a shooting psychology which is never more in evidence than when the going gets tough. He carries that same psychology with him behind the firing line and it has made a legion of friends throughout the competitive world. Says Joe, "You have to have a happy heart to be a good shooter." Benner likes his teammates, he likes his fellow competitors and he beams on the world in general. Unquestionably his boundless good humor, an inevitable viewing of any situation on its brighter side, and his belief in people generally provide our champ with an outlook which plays no minor part in helping him pan the bullseye with such phenomenal regularity.

Joe is—to employ an old phrase usually reserved for fortyish blonds—pleasingly plump. His twenty or thirty pounds of excess blubber is stowed about a big frame with such nicety as to leave few bulges. About five feet, nine inches in height, with a size sixteen neck, forty-four chest, sixteen-inch biceps,

a heavy forearm, big wrist and a husky fist, notable for thick powerful fingers and a large palm, Benner bears no small resemblance to a heavyweight wrestler only slightly out of condition. Joe loves to eat, frequently shovels down sandwiches, ice cream and candy bars between meals, likes an occasional beer, sleeps eight or ten hours every night and, like George Bernard Shaw, goes and lies down very promptly any time he feels the least desire to exercise.

Benner was born and raised in Arkansas, joined the Army when he was eighteen and has been a soldier ever since. He is now 31, is a sergeant first class in the weapons department of the Armored School at Fort Knox, Kentucky. There Joe teaches small-arms marksmanship to the hundreds of students who annually pass through this famous tanker's training center. Despite the fact that Benner is a small-arms instructor, he does not have his pup tent pitched on the pistol range as is sometimes told in all seriousness. Actually he gets away from his classes and practices for his own good not more than three times weekly. Usually he is compelled to fire late in the evening and frequently all alone. This stint is sufficient to keep him in something more than remarkable firing form.

The shooting irons wielded by our straight-pointing gunner are a matter of no small interest. To begin with, most of them are second hand. The Woodsman is an old Match target which was formerly the property of an entire company of men! It is equipped with a King ventilated rib in front and a Micro rear sight. The gun has the King tubular-type barrelweight, an old pair of Sanderson grips, a precision refitting job by that master craftsman, Berdon, and a Henshaw trigger shoe plus a good many spots of rust here and there.

In preparation for the international powder burning in Argentina, Benner got a new Haemmerli free pistol. He practiced with the Haemmerli very religiously for a month and at the end of that time cranked out a score of 192 with it at 50 yards. Then Joe put the imported hardware aside and picked up his battered old Woodsman and shot a 98 followed by a 100. The venerable Woodsman may look a little on the decrepit side but that gun is probably the straightest-shooting automatic ever to leave the Hartford factory.

Joe's .38 Officers Model is another second-hand bargain. Joe picked it up more than ten years ago and has fitted it with a King raised rib and micrometer rear sight. The front sight is one-eighth inch in width, as they are on all of Benner's guns. The action has been shortened by Berdon, Sanderson provided the stocks, there is a Henshaw beavertail trigger, and that comprises a powder burner which during an eighteen day practice period turned up an average of 294!

Joe has no spare .38. Although he has won a number of these sixguns he has retained only old 'Bacon-gitter'. I asked him one day, "Suppose you break a part during a match? What then?" His answer was typically Joe, "I'd just wham 'em out with the .45."

Of his .45, Joe says, "This is the best gun of the three." His shooting indicates that if it is not better it is certainly just as good. Not long ago, while I watched, Benner shot 97 at 50 yards with the .45 and wound up with a National Match Course 295—a 100 timed and 98 rapid. I have seen him shoot 290 over the NM course so many times it is no longer a matter for comment. During an eighteen-day practice session he averaged 291 with the .45. The gun has been precision refitted by Berdon, sports a set of Sanderson stocks, a Micro rear sight, and is probably the best trained and most docile model 1911 in existence. It seldom strays outside the ten-ring!

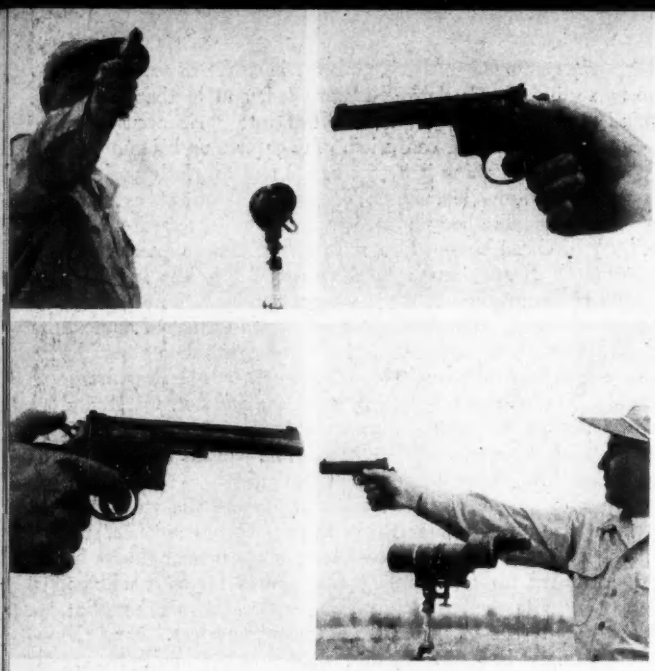
Benner on the firing line is the perfect example of the well-ordered mind. He has one forward speed, compound low. He does everything with deliberateness. Though he never hurries, when the command to fire is spoken I have yet to see him fail to be ready. Joe is thorough, unruffled, and in that orderly mind of his things are made to fall into their accustomed places without rush or confusion. He gathers up his gun with his left hand, catching it by the barrel and carefully positions it into a well-muscled palm. His legs widespread, extra-far spaced really, his body turned almost 90 degrees from the target, his head drooped forward so that he appears stoop shouldered, Benner levels on the target. His idle left hand is shoved deeply into a front trousers pocket. The left eye is almost closed. The keen right eye, green as that of any cat, picks up the sights and aim begins. Joe never shoots quickly. He takes a long time with every shot whether it be slow fire or rapid. Not infrequently he will bring the gun down, rest, and commence his aim again. Between shots he takes the gun out of his hand, drops the right to his side and permits the blood to circulate through his fingers again.

His grip on the pistol is hard. He grasps the weapon so tightly as to turn his fingertips white after a few seconds, sure indication that his grip is no lily-like hold. Benner shoves his trigger finger through the trigger guard as far as it will go, squeezing with the first joint. He tries to call his shots but, like all the rest of us, the call is not always perfect. Even the champs cannot be sure every time what that last small pressure did to the muzzle.

I have many times stood a dozen paces from Benner and sighted over his gun muzzle as he aimed at 50 yards. Never have I seen a marksman who can hold a handgun as still as this phenomenal gunner. There is scarcely any vertical movement at all. A barely discernible movement occurs from side to side. I believe this slight oscillation is due in part to the fact that Joe fires from the old military stance, that is, facing 90 degrees from the target. I suspect if he faced the target to greater extent, using the Engbrecht stance, that the exceedingly small movement now perceptible would be further dampened. But when a bird is as good as Benner, I hesitate to advise!

Joe likes to aim at six o'clock at both ranges, changing his sights as he moves forward. On the matter of sight shifting Benner is unquestionably the dog-gonnedest sight changer in the business! I have more than once seen him make a small correction for a perfect score of 100. The shots were a hair above or below the figure ten so out would come the trusty and well-used screwdriver—and a correction occurs. I am agin' this kind of business, but our topflighter is a shining example of the goodness of sight shifting. He does it and brother, does he make it pay off!

Joe Benner is still the number one mystery of pistoldom. Here's a new low-down, by Joe's friend and fellow shooter, Charlie Askins



Joe Benner's pistol-toting technique differs little from that of any other top-flight handgunner. Here he demonstrates rapid fire with .38 and .45

In an analysis of this super champion who has 42 national record certificates, more than 500 medals, over 100 trophies, and worries about only one competitor of all the thousands who compete—his friend Harry Reeves—what do we find in summation? We see a big husky gent, full of love for his fellow man, even tempered, possibly a little phlegmatic, maybe some lazy, who likes to eat, abhors exercise and lives cleanly and temperately. A shooter who possesses good equipment but has weapons in no wise different from those possessed by countless thousands of other handgunners. A gunner who practices three times every week, who aims at the conventional spot, employs a hard grip, follows a time-honored stance, is probably overly deliberate and has the fault of tinkering with his sights far too frequently.

What then sets Joe Benner apart as a master craftsman in a sport noteworthy for outstanding maestros? Amigo, when you can answer that one you will have something! What makes Joe Louis the outstanding heavy of all time? Or Joe DiMaggio the ball player, or Aerial the greatest pointer or Coaltown the hoss of the year? Champions—really great champions like Benner and Reeves—are born to the purple. The rest of us can become fairly good by consistent practice but it remains for the Benners—sparked by a hidden, inner something which provides them with the faculty to concentrate a bit more intensely, hold more tightly, squeeze more precisely—to win. ◆ ◆ ◆

Still Chasing Rainbows

Continued from page 15

Pennsylvania, won with a group that measured 1.889 inches, using 27½ grains of 3031 and the 55-grain Sierra bullet in a .219 Wasp rifle chambered by himself.

Much of the group shooting is done on ranges where permanent, solid bench rests have been built, although some still prefer portable rests of their own design. A few of the shooters, too, contend they can get better groups when shooting from the prone position, using sandbags and pedestal rest. Group-shooting, therefore, can be conducted on almost any suitable range, even though bench rests are not available. Almost unanimous is the opinion that sandbags and a pedestal are among the most important pieces of bench-rest equipment. After some years of experimenting, the commonest type of sandbag is one six inches square, used for the forearm rest. A similar sandbag measuring six inches by twelve inches is filled rather tightly and used under the toe of the stock. L. R. Wallack has these sandbags, made of soft buckskin, at $3 a pair. Almost unanimous is the demand for the best of triggers, and single or double sets are very common.

That about winds up the details of modern bench-rest equipment. Now, what about the future?

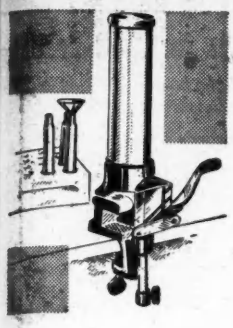
Judging from the records we have kept, the .219 Wasp is used by at least 50, and perhaps 75 percent of today's bench-rest shooters. However, as good as is this little cartridge, it will undoubtedly be surpassed in time. Even now, shooters are experimenting with other calibers, including the .250 Savage. Several modifications by Harvey Donaldson are under development and L. R. Wallack is chambering for them. Reamers have been made by the H&M Tool Company, 250 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale, Michigan.

All of this interest in group shooting, and the developmental work that is a part of it, will one day bring us to what bench-rest shooters think of as the ultimate in rifle accuracy. That goal is to place five or ten consecutive shots in one hole at 200 yards. In the meantime, other cartridges, and other bullets, will be developed by the bench resters. One of the reasons for the present trend toward heavier calibers is that the .22's are wind sensitive and do not do as well as heavier calibers at 200 yards or beyond, except in perfect conditions. A lot of Wasp owners have a spare rifle of larger caliber for 200-yard matches and use it when conditions are rough.

One of the other calibers being developed is the so-called .240, which is actually 6-mm. or .243 caliber. This cartridge shows very promising accuracy. Some shooters are even talking about a cartridge in .270 caliber.

The final outcome will be unbelievable accuracy. At the moment the .22's hold the lead for the smallest groups, but that picture can change rapidly, especially when matches are held at the longer ranges. At the present time, though, the best bet for a bench-rest gun seems to be a cartridge such as the Wasp, Improved Zipper, .22-250, .220 Swift or .220 Arrow, made up with a reasonably heavy, long barrel, fitted and chambered by a gunsmith who knows his business. A heavy, straight-grained stock is a necessity. In addition, it has been proven without doubt that the best method for supporting that rifle is on two sandbags.

This, then, is the picture as of year's end, 1949. By the same time next year, the story can be altogether different. Suffice to say that, by then, a lot more water will have run over the dam. New calibers, new cartridges, new bullets, and new techniques will have appeared, and perhaps disappeared. The bench-rest shooters, still chasing the rainbow of one-hole groups at 200 yards, will perhaps be closer to that self-imposed goal. Of greatest importance, though, will be the discoveries made in the attempt. Somewhere, a visionary experimenter is working on a rifle you may some day proudly own. If you want a preview of tomorrow's rifles, take a look at today's bench-rest equipment! ◆ ◆ ◆

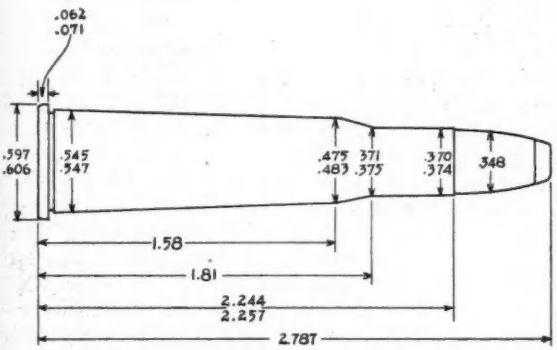


LOADS FOR THE .348

This article on .348 loads is the eighth of an important RIFLEMAN *series covering the more popular American rifle and pistol cartridges. The series so far has included "Loads for the '06"* (RIFLEMAN, *April, page 28), "Handgun Handloads" (May, page 32), ".257 Roberts Loads" (June, page 32), "Loads for the .270" (July, page 38), "Loads for the 8MM." (August, page 40), "Loads for the .30-30" (September, page 29) and "Loads for the .250" (October, page 17).*

Preparation of the material for each article was handled jointly by the NRA's Al Barr and the H. P. White Company of Cleveland, Ohio (see RIFLEMAN, *November 1948, page 21).*

Five rounds of each of the nine loads listed in Table I were checked for average velocity figures and the loads were tested for pressure in a model 71 barrel of .340-inch bore diameter, .349-inch groove diameter, 24 inches long, in a Modern-Bond Universal receiver using Winchester copper crushers with variation in length controlled to .001 inch and Winchester tarage tables. Velocities were measured on a Potter electronic counter chronograph. Room temperature was maintained at 77 degrees.



Drawing shows maximum and minimum critical dimensions of the .348 cartridge. Figures are averages of measurements of ten commercial loads

IN JANUARY of 1936, which marked the fiftieth anniversary of the famous model 1886 lever-action rifle, Winchester brought out its model 71. With the new weapon, which is a modernized version of the 1886 rifle, they also introduced a new cartridge especially designed for it, the .348 Winchester.

The background of Winchester's M71 lever-action rifle extends over many years. Its ancestor, the 1886 rifle, was a product of the black powder era, and it was not until 1903 that a modern smokeless powder cartridge, the .33 Winchester, was issued for this popular action. In this same year the model 1895 Winchester was offered to the shooter in the new .35 Winchester caliber. The following table compares these three rifles and cartridges of about the same class:

Cartridge	*Rifle*	*Bullet Grains*	*Muzzle Velocity*	*Muzzle Energy*	*Rifle Weight*
.33 WCF	Model 1886	200	2200	2150	7-¾ pounds
.35 WCF	Model 1895	250	2195	2670	8-½ pounds
.348 WCF	Model 71	200	2535	2855	8 pounds
.348 WCF	Model 71	150	2920	2840	8 pounds

It is apparent from this table that with the .348 cartridge, admirers of the lever-action rifle were offered a great improvement in their available hunting equipment. This increase in power could only be accommodated by an action such as the strong model 71.

Outwardly, the .348 case appears to have been modeled after the .33 WCF case. The powder capacity was increased over that case from 4.06 c.c. to 4.82 c.c., or roughly nineteen percent, by increasing the body diameter and the case length.

No claims were ever made for this cartridge or rifle for target use. It was designed as a big-game killer for use on the North American continent. Hunting authorities generally agree that it has fulfilled this purpose at ranges up to 200 yards. The 150-grain bullet has been recommended for deer in open country, while the 200-grain loading is the better choice in wooded areas and on heavier game, due to its ability to deliver a harder punch and because it is less liable to deflection by bush growth or branches.

The model 71 Winchester is still the only rifle available for this cartridge. The original loads, with the 150-grain and 200-grain bullets, which are still on the market have been supplemented by the addition of a 250-grain Silvertip load now available through both Winchester and Western.

Because the .348 is a hunting cartridge and is used in only the one lever-action rifle, little reloading data has so far been published. Other than a list of loads for the DuPont series of powders published some years ago, we can find only a half dozen recommended powder charges for the .348. As a result, the pressure and velocity data in Table I should be of particular interest to owners of this caliber who intend to load for it. Since we had prepared no handloads for the .348 until this test was conducted, we were probably lucky in selecting suitable loads in the near maximum bracket, which were arrived at using only the limited data available.

IMR 4064 is one of the best powders in this particular cartridge case with bullets weighing 200 grains. For example, load 3 would indicate that the highest velocity was obtained with this bullet weight using 4064 powder at a very reasonable pressure level. IMR 4895 used in load 1 is also very good, although the maximum individual pressure figure for the loads tested with this powder indicated that it is a little more erratic than 4064. Possibly 4895 or IMR 3031 would be best with 150-grain bullets, although none were used in this test. The .348 cartridge appears to be at its best with the heavier bullets, as verified by the appearance of a 250-grain bullet for it. For

this one we had no load suggestion to go on, but the loads listed in Table I are all within reason and within safe pressure limits for this caliber, which is loaded not to exceed around 44,000 pounds pressure per square inch.

For the heavy 250-grain bullet IMR 4064 or 4350 would be the best powders. The IMR 4895 combination listed in load 5 gave good velocity, but pressure was somewhat erratic. This particular cartridge case probably will not hold enough IMR 4350 to make a dangerous load with 150- or 200-grain bullets, but the powder did not show enough improvement over 4064 to be worthwhile, unless it would be with the 250-grain bullet. With this bullet weight the 4350 load could be slightly increased above the 55-grain charge which we used for the test. The 250-grain bullet is loaded to 2320 foot-seconds muzzle velocity in commercial loads.

There are no unusual precautions necessary when handloading for the .348 cartridge. However, since it is used in lever-action rifles, case length should be checked frequently when heavy loads are fired and when cases are regularly used reloaded. Under these conditions cases must be full-length resized so they will fit in the chamber again. The maximum case length for this cartridge is 2.255 inches.

Additional loading data, which we did not check, will be found in the Ideal and Belding & Mull Handbooks and in Phil Sharpe's *Complete Guide to Handloading*. These include loads for the DuPont series of powders, though we find few loads listed for lead-alloy gas-check bullets. There is one Ideal gas-check bullet listed, which is the No. 350447 weighing 190 grains. Also Hensley & Gibbs lists a 220-grain .348 gas-check bullet, which is their No. 82. With these bullets one suggested load is 25 to 26 grains of IMR 4759 powder. With 26 grains of this powder and the 190-grain Ideal bullet the velocity is very close to 1700 feet per second, which should be accurate. Another accurate load listed for this same 190-grain Ideal bullet is 20 grains of No. 4759. For another high-velocity load, which may be used with the 190-grain or 220-grain gas-check bullets, a charge of 33 grains of No. 4198 has been used to get about 2000 feet-per-second velocity. An equivalent load would be 30 grains of Hercules Lightning.

The .348 Winchester cartridge is quite accurate and powerful up to at least 200 yards. Even in the lever-action rifle, so long as we kept the barrel cold, firing only one or two shots every few minutes, we have had 10-shot groups in less than 3-¾ inches using 200-grain factory ammunition. The groups would open up to about twice that size when the rifle was fired rapidly enough for the barrel to heat up noticeably.

All bullets, including the jacketed and lead-alloy types used in the .348 cartridge, should have crimping cannelures or crimping grooves. With cartridges used in a tubular magazine, the bullets should be held very securely in the case neck and to insure uniform seating depth they should be crimped in the cannelure or the crimping groove. The correct primer for this case is the large size rifle type measuring .210-inch in diameter. Any of the primers such as the Winchester 120, Western 8½ or Remington 9½ may be used. Lead-alloy bullets should be sized .349 to .351 inch in diameter.

For those handloading for the .348 Winchester cartridge we might point out that the 150-grain bullet is so short in relation to its diameter that it is really impractical when compared with the heavier 200- and 250-grain bullets. The 150-grain bullet starts out at the muzzle, according to manufacturer's specifications, at 2880 foot-seconds, and has only 1550 foot-seconds remaining at 300 yards. The heavier 250-grain bullet starts out at only 2320 foot-seconds velocity, but has 1566 foot-seconds remaining at the 300-yard range. In addition, the energy figures are so noticeably better than for the lighter bullet as to indicate a very good reason why the heavier bullet has been brought out for this particular cartridge. The only gain for the lighter bullet is the negligible one of higher velocity at short ranges. ♦ ♦ ♦

Manufacturers' Specifications for .348 Loads

	150-Grain Soft Point	200-Grain Soft Point	250-Grain Silvertip
	Velocity, Foot Seconds		
Muzzle	2880	2520	2320
100 Yards	2380	2160	2046
200 Yards	1930	1840	1793
300 Yards	1550	1560	1566
	Striking Energy, Foot Pounds		
Muzzle	2765	2820	2980
100 Yards	1890	2075	2330
200 Yards	1240	1505	1790
300 Yards	800	1080	1362
	Midrange Trajectory Height, Inches		
100 Yards	0.6	0.8	0.9
200 Yards	3.0	4.0	4.2
300 Yards	8.5	10.0	10.8
	Sighting In, Iron Sights, Inches		
100 Yards	3.0 High	4.0 High	4.2 High
200 Yards	On Aim	On Aim	On Aim
300 Yards	14.4 Low	16.0 Low	
400 Yards	58.0 Low	58.5 Low	

Table I: Velocity and Pressures for .348 Winchester Loads

Load	Weight (grains)	Bullet Type	Bullet diameter (inch)	Seating depth (inch)	Charge (grains)	Powder type	Lot No.	Primer	Case make	Velocity 20 feet	Pressure	Remarks
1	200	WRA S.P.	.349	.45	52.0	4895	27277	WRA 120	WRA	2464	42,400	Near maximum
2	200	WRA S.P.	.349	.45	52.0	4320	20	WRA 120	WRA	2397	41,520	Good load
3	200	WRA S.P.	.349	.45	53.5	4064	52	WRA 120	WRA	2485	41,400	Excellent load
4	200	WRA S.P.	.349	.45	59.0	4350	10	WRA 120	WRA	2359	39,600	Moderate load
5	250	WRA S.T.	.349	.55	49.0	4895	27277	WRA 120	WRA	2261	44,980	Reduce load 2 grains
6	250	WRA S.T.	.349	.55	50.0	4064	52	WRA 120	WRA	2270	42,680	Near maximum
7	250	WRA S.T.	.349	.55	50.0	4350	10	WRA 120	WRA	2185	37,380	Mild load
8	250	WRA S.T.	.349	.55	55.0	4350	10	WRA 120	WRA	2221	40,300	Good load
9	200	Commercial Load								2580	43,620	

Last month the RIFLEMAN *published the first of two excerpts from "Karamojo Safari" by W. D. M. Bell (Harcourt, Brace & Co., N.Y., 1949, $3.75). In it, the veteran ivory hunter told of his first African rifles, and of their performance in the game-rich area in which he was to spend five years. Here is the rest of Bell's story . . . carrying on from his description of how a fleeing elephant was dropped by placing a shot toward the center of the skull just as the animal swung its head sideways for a backward glance at its pursuer.*—ED.

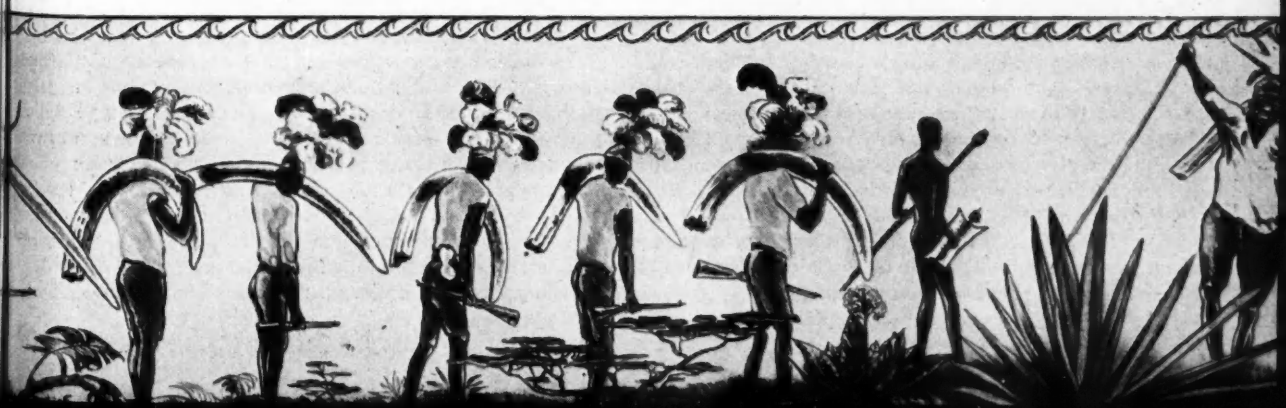
OF COURSE sometimes that kind of a shot fails. The timing may be a fraction out. Or the bullet may be deflected. And in this connection the otherwise incomparable 7-mm. bullet came under suspicion in my mind. There began to arise those times when one felt everything was all right and yet a failure was registered. I began to use a .318 bullet of 250 grains with long parallel sides—like an enlarged .256 bullet in fact—for these slanting through-the-neck shots. At once the inexplicable misses ceased.

It is a grand bullet, the 250-grain .318; there is no doubt about that, reluctant as I was to admit it. It is what I call a four-diameter or four-caliber bullet, that is, its length is a little more than four times the caliber; a most essential quality. The large bores, such as the .470 or .465, do not come up to this test. The best of them are but 2½ calibers while the worst are but 1½, such as the .577. I hated the .318 case, with its mean looking powder space—it is merely a .30 U.S.A. Springfield .30-'06 case—its miserable shoulders hardly wider than the bullet. But for some inexplicable reason the effect on the recipient of that bullet is startling and not to be observed in the case of any other bullet that I have used, and that includes everything up to 800-grain bullets driven by 120 grains of cordite . . . both triggers of a double .400 wired together.

If I were called upon to design for my own use a cartridge for all big stuff I would try to evolve a shorter case to hold the same powder charge as the .318 behind the same 250-grain .318 bullet, thereby securing a shorter bolt travel while retaining exactly the same ballistics.

I might be tempted to have the nose of the .318 bullet reinforced like the Rigby .416 and .350, because I collected quite a number of deformed .318 bullets, cut by the boys from the heads and bodies of elephant. Many of them had their noses bashed in thus: But it is mighty hard to be certain that this was a fault. Otherwise I would not dare to tamper with a combination that has proved to be so deadly and that has evaded analysis so successfully. Some pundits ascribe its lethal properties to the bullet weight and velocity combination, others to the density of the powder charge, but no one really knows. My own personal opinion is that the wedding of moderately high velocity—say 2400 feet per second—to moderately high weight, 250 grains combined in a long parallel-sided bullet of good length-to-diameter ratio, easily used in a rifle of light weight, without excessive recoil, and with a moderate bolt travel account for its success, even in the hands of a casual hunter; in the hands of an expert one the .318 becomes absolutely deadly.

In discussing rifles I must draw attention to a grave fault of nearly all magazine systems—the hammering of the bul-



lets against the fore-end of the magazine each time a shot is fired. All except the Mannlicher-Schoenauer rotary magazine appear to suffer from this serious fault.

In Africa, where situations may arise with great suddenness, one carries the magazine full of solids for an emergency, and loads single cartridges into the breech, solid or soft-nosed as occasion demands, thus keeping the full magazine for anything demanding fast action.

As may be supposed, days may pass without a call being made on the magazine, especially in the case of an expert worker. Quite a number of shots may be fired and meanwhile those bullets are being rammed further and further back into the cases while their noses are more and more flattened. I have often seen .318 cases with not more than two thirds of the normal bullet protrusion remaining.

By the way it might be of interest to know that the .318 cartridge functions faultlessly in the Springfield .30-'06 action. Indeed it does so considerably more smoothly than in the Mauser, and one has the added advantage of the magazine cut-off.

And now I must say a word about that smaller brother of the .318—the .256 with the old long, round-nosed bullet. I have paid tribute to it as a meat getter; now a word about its performance on elephant.

As prosperity descended upon me, resulting from my hunting, I began to arm myself with rifles of various calibers, embodying my own fancies and requirements. Among these there arrived for me in Central Africa, after many months travel and many difficulties, a very refined little Mannlicher-Schoenauer .256 with a goodly store of solids. I meant to try it out as an elephant gun. It weighed five pounds empty by dint of some machining away of the action and cutting down of the barrel.

Of all the weapons I have owned this was certainly the most beautiful. The action too was the sweetest working. Still at this date that rotary magazine is the only one known to me that holds the cartridges in such a way as to prevent the bullets hammering against the foreside of the magazine when a shot is fired, thus flattening their noses, should they be soft nosed, or ramming them back into the powder chamber, should they be solids. The ignition was slow certainly, the striker spring having to overcome the inertia of far too much metal, besides having far too long a travel.

The stocking, bluing and sighting had been done by an artist —Fraser of Edinburgh. A genius in his own line, it was a terrible loss to all riflemen when he died quite young. He taught me how to watch bullets in flight with the naked eye and also what a devastating bar to close shooting flinch can be. That even from a gunmaker's rest flinch can spoil grouping and, in fact, that flinch was enemy number one to the aspiring rifleman.

I shall never forget the unpacking of that .256 in the wilds of the African bush; the ripping open of that tin-lined case that looked so incredibly small. There, wrapped in greaseproof paper, lay the oily little rascal. Out in the hot sun it was but a moment's work to strip off the mercurial grease Fraser used for protecting his steelwork on tropical voyages. What a thrill to just handle it. As it happened we were in the midst of good elephant bush, fruit was heavy on the trees and the great game were in the midst of their tree-browsing season. So there was every chance of contacting a few bulls.

Examining the cartridges for the .256 I noticed that they bore the genuine Steyr mark and should therefore have been the best for use in their own rifle. I noticed also that the bullets were held in the neck of the case by pressure only.

Examining each case, as I always did, I filled my belt, finding no faulty cases, and strode joyfully off into the bush, twirling around that dandy little gun.

Well, luck was in and we came on a party of elephant very intent on working a wild orchard of heavily laden trees. Underfoot all grass had been burned off and was now replaced with numbers of wild, sweet-smelling flowers. Their scent mingled with that of elephant's dung, together with that from their urine, and the buzz of countless insects, seemed to make a quivering jelly of the air, quite intoxicating to the hunter. They were rather scattered and on the move from tree to tree so they did not give the rifle the chance that a slumbering group, all bunched together, would have afforded. Nevertheless that little .256 laid them low with a shot apiece—all brain shots. Was I delighted? Here was the perfect rifle! Strong enough for the heaviest game and yet small enough for the tiniest antelope, or for shooting the heads off guinea fowl. There was one survivor from that first encounter. The .256 and I legged it after him.

In a surprisingly short run he brought us among another lot, also somewhat scattered, and all listening intently to what the rather flustered new arrival had to tell them. Whether he had not much to say, or whether they disbelieved what he told them, I don't know but, at any rate, they were not alarmed enough to take to flight and only stood around listening from time to time and, occasionally, evacuating. I had killed twelve good bull elephant with one shot each in the brain from all angles, except the stern quartering shot, when it happened. I had begun to find an occasional split neck among the cartridges as I examined them when selecting new ones for the belt. Somehow one must have slipped by and got in, or, more probably, it split when actually in the belt. Anyway, this is what happened. A large bull elephant was seen in open bush

The ground was so clear that I actually sat down to take the shot forty paces distant from the animal—a most exceptional thing to happen. Usually there is something intervening and almost always the shooting is offhand in Africa.

I made absolutely certain of that grand bull and squeezed off. Click! A misfire! Waiting a few seconds in case it was only a hangfire and feeling good about the absence of flinch—for it is only when there is a misfire or a hangfire or no cartridge in the chamber that one knows about this—I opened the bolt, extracted the misfire and—here is where I made the fatal mistake—with my eye on the elephant, tried to push in another cartridge. It failed to enter the chamber and looking down, here is what had happened. The misfire had extracted all right. Having no wad between bullet and powder the granular stuff had spilt into the action, but that only required shaking to get it out; what did matter was, the bullet now firmly fixed in the throat of the barrel by my disastrous attempt to shove in another cartridge.

I have thought since—wise after the event—that I should have found another case and shoved it onto the lodged bullet when all might have been well. I don't know. What I did was this, while that $700 bull browsed sedately along:

First I tried hitting the butt with my fist, then on my thigh, all the time eyeing the elephant and trying not to alarm him.

Then I tried thumping the butt on the ground. At the third bump the old rascal cocked his enormous ears and listened. After a while he recommenced his browsing.

Now I had to clear out and get that gun fixed somehow. Withdrawing quietly a few hundred yards I thumped the butt sharply against a tree trunk. Nothing would move the bullet. So the search for a rod to push it out began.

Now caliber .256 is mighty small when it comes to finding a branch long enough and straight enough to do the job, in African bush anyway. I could only find short lengths to enter the barrel and so, of course, when finally the bullet was pushed out the barrel remained full of bits of stick. And they obstinately resisted any efforts to shake them out. However, reloading I returned to the still unsuspicious elephant who had moved on perhaps a quarter mile while all this was going on. This time I thought I had better take him in the body as I expected there might be some deflection of the bullet in the mix-up with all those pieces of bush. And deflection there certainly was, for, at the shot he launched himself into a flight straight for the Nile, some three hundred miles distant. For all I know he may have reached it non-stop because I gave up after about fifteen miles. I have never seen an elephant before or since so determined on changing his locality. Not once did he stop for a shower—as they so often do—or even slacken his gait in the least. Nor did he keep looking back by swinging his head from side to side. Whether he had got the bullet in a tender part or whether the pieces of rod had tickled him up will never be known.

This failure of the .256 cartridge was a great disappointment to me. A closer examination showed about one in five split necks. A return to the .275 was clearly indicated, but before leaving the .256 I must point out that since those days the trouble with the cases has, of course, been remedied. I would, in fact, say that if a man were to be restricted to only one rifle and had to hunt in all parts of the world seriously, that is, subsist on the rifle's proceeds, he could not select a better proposition than the .256 Mannlicher-Schoenauer with the round-nosed bullet. For specialized work, such as the brain shot at elephant—I am writing of the old heavy round-nosed bullet; not the newer lightweight high-velocity kind; this is hopeless for such work—this .256 bullet is rather small in diameter for its length. It is liable to bend on impact with heavy bone. At any rate my collection of used bullets showed some pretty badly bent specimens. And if they bend, the natural assumption is that they may be deflected from their former course; this would explain those rare, but recurrent, failures to kill that so bother the experienced hunter when he knows he is leaving nothing to chance.

Perhaps I should qualify these remarks on the .256 Mannlicher-Shoenauer in view of the advent of the .270 Winchester. I have not had an opportunity of trying this cartridge but from the catalogue it should be good. It appears to have a four-caliber bullet, or nearly so, and this bullet driven at the astounding velocity claimed for it would make it most deadly for all soft game such as lion. But whether its solids would stand the punch on elephant, rhino or buffalo, when driven so fast, would depend on the toughness of the bullet jacket.

For several years after this affair I stuck firmly to the 7 mm. for elephants. Always loaded with solids, it was inevitable that one should have occasion to shoot up lion. Once when a lioness chased a boy while her cubs scuttled away, and sometimes when they might have stampeded our donks and cattle, I found the round-nosed solid entirely satisfactory, especially for end-on shots.

For some years I continued to use the five-shot 7-mm. Mauser with a ten-shot .303 as a sort of reserve. I always had hopes that sometime somewhere I would find a bunch of bull elephant so foolish as to stand around while I shot them down and numerous enough for the ten-shot rifle. Needless to say I never found them so trusting. The nearest I ever came to realizing my dream was when a small native boy and I caught a bunch of bulls in an acute-angled bend of the upper Nile in pouring rain. It was in the middle of the big rains—the best time to hunt if you can stick it and if you can persuade your boys to stick it. It is tough work; the grass is immense—from eight to twelve feet high—biting bugs of all sorts are a plague, rivers are swollen, raging torrents and tornadoes of daily occurrence, and the African is bound to his village—he hates the wet and cold—and game roams unmolested right up to the village confines.

This is how it happened. We were camped close to the Nile with a lot of ivory in but with precious little food. Across the river were some native villages where millet flour could be got for meat. On the morning of this particular day it was deluging down in solid sheets when the headman reported the flour ration finished; would I kill some meat to trade for flour. Now we had been killing elephant right along and I—reluctant as any African to face the continuous shower bath of the high grass—objected and pointed out that it was only a few days since our last killing and that the boys must still have lots of meat. To this the headman replied that meat—even when smoked—cannot be kept dry and therefore cannot be kept good. Cursing them all I said I would try to get a hippo.

Now the wily hippo is greatly prized by the Africans and if he ventures on land in the daytime in the dry season he soon finds himself full of spears in spite of his inch-and-a-half thick hide. So he does not so venture. But in the heavy rains and especially while rain is actually falling, out he comes. With this in mind, I thought to catch one or two quite near camp and accordingly looked round for a companion. My eye lit on a small Lumbwa herd boy and I beckoned him over.

At the edge of twelve or so, before they start any woman palaver, these Africans are

as sharp as needles. They know a lot about the bush, cannot lose themselves, and make charmingly keen and intelligent hunting companions. Telling him to park his spear, short sword and knobkerry—his usual armament for the defense of our sheep and goat herd—I gave him a short .318 to carry, more to jolly him along than for any use I might have for it. Taking a long .318 myself and, of course, the cartridge belt holding 35 rounds of solids, we slipped shuddering into the sea of dripping grass, following the river bank.

The rain was coming down in that tropical way that reduces visibility to about 100 yards, so that when we saw some glistening backs showing silvery through the rain curtain we took them to be hippo out from the river and in shorter grass. Instead they were bull elephant in long grass, only the tops of their backs showing above it.

This was thrilling. There were five of them. The downpour drowned all lesser noises and the wind was up and down the mast. At about eight paces—one could not see the vitals until then—the first one got it. For some unknown reason the others came directly towards the shot; possibly because we stood between them and the higher ground away from the river.

Of course this coming head-on towards the rifle is the kind of thing the experienced hunter dreams of. For one thing, the frontal brain shot is the easiest for the bullet—that is, it encounters very little bone opposition—and when they have their heads down, as in flight, it is one of the easiest for the hunter. If you ground the one making straight for your stance, you have cleared your position, as it were, and the two on either side do not move over so as to run you down. You have therefore two more fast ones at the right- and left-hand one; one when abreast of you and another oblique one behind the ear as he will have already passed you. And this is what happened.

The two survivors went no distance at all and we caught them listening motionlessly for their three companions, who had so unaccountably ceased to exist. One we killed with an easy one but the other gave no chance at all, his nerve being completely shattered by this time.

Without troubling to cut off the tails—they would have been too heavy for the lad anyhow—we weaselled after that fleeing rascal in a most unpleasant shower from the surrounding grass. When really alarmed elephant—and others too—are attacked by uncontrollable "squitters" and we were the sufferers.

But what did that matter? For in a half-mile rush he led us to an incredible scene.

Just here the upper Nile makes an almost right-angled bend. In the bend on the west bank—where we were—there is a bed of papyrus reeds; then a piece of harder level ground and then, overlooking the whole terrain, a rocky outcrop. And that is exactly where we arrived.

Looking down from our perch here is what met the eye.

The level ground this side of the wall of papyrus was a seething mass of elephant. Counting roughly there were over fifty, and, more incredible still, they were all bulls. The show of ivory was more impressive than real, as the tusks were well washed by the rains and showed up larger than they really were. It seemed to me that there was no escape for them. Either they must overrun us or take to the river and swim for it.

I now loaded up the short .318 hitherto carried by the little boy. I thought if they decided to come our way it would be needed. Then I started the works. The range could not have been greater than forty yards—almost an ideal distance for this kind of job.

To begin with they were completely flustered and milled around any old how. When five or six had foundered one was found to give a lead and he came determinedly up the hill, pushed along by a solid wall of massive foreheads, and, of course, just as I was reloading. Here came the break out.

Grabbing the short .318 I began the belated defense of our position. The leader was about half way up the slope when he got it. The others came on gallantly as four more of their leaders fell. That was enough; the rest turned back just when victory was in their grasp. My rifle was empty and the long one had only one cartridge in it. Another five yards and they would have overrun us and been free in a few million square miles of bush.

As it was, the demoralized survivors slouched off, some into the papyrus and some into the river itself. Those in the reed-bed were soon lost to sight, as far as shooting was concerned. The dozen or so that took to the river turned back when they found the water creeping up their sides. All except one; he swam away in great style, almost submerged, with his trunk up like a periscope, and he landed on the opposite bank in the face of a crowd of highly excited natives who had been watching the whole affair. He landed right in the native gardens and was last seen by us careening madly through the fields, pursued by a crowd of native farmers.

Turning to the battlefield we counted fifteen carcasses. Eleven were so close together that one could step from one to the other without touching the ground. With the four back in the bush that made nineteen; the biggest day I ever had and the easiest. But not the biggest ivory. They were young and middle-aged herd bulls, tired for the moment of their slippery-sided love birds perhaps, and having a bachelor dander round. Their ivory was long, but so were the hollows. Consequently the weights were poor. Although all of them had two tusks the total for the nineteen was but little more than 1400 pounds, giving an average weight of about 37 pounds per tusk, whereas away eastward on the headwaters of the Pibor I once killed nine bulls, yielding a total of 1463 pounds for the day. Even then one of them had a tusk on one side broken off short at the lip so that there were really only seventeen tusks. That gives the very fine average of 81 pounds. That was a 7-mm. day.

It was quite impossible to carry nineteen whole tails, owing to their weight, so we cut off the very tips only. Even these weighed a considerable amount so, slinging them on thongs cut from the edge of the ear, where the skin is thin—and hanging a bunch from each end of a bush stick, we struck out for camp as best we could, cold, weary, drenched to the bone, but triumphant. ◆ ◆ ◆

right hand . . . left eye

famed explorer William J. Morden supplies a practical answer for an old problem

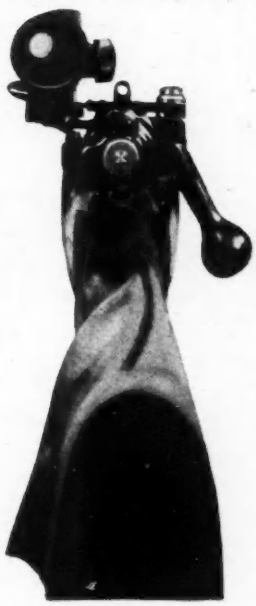
LOSS OF A SHOOTING eye through injury or cataract is one of the most common and saddest endings of a rifleman's career. All too often shooters have laid their guns aside permanently because they have lost the use of a shooting eye and cannot adapt themselves to handling their rifle from the other side. (If you think it's easy and if, like most of us, you're strongly right-handed *and right-eyed,* try handling your pet rifle from the left side! Ten to one you'll give up in disgust after the first attempt.)

One of the people who ran into the problem—and who has done something about it—is famed explorer and big-game hunter William J. Morden. Not long ago Morden came through Washington prior to jumping off for Alaska and a try at brown bear. With him was a .375 Holland and Holland. His solution to the problem isn't altogether new—people were using offset scopes a long time ago, though for a different reason—but it is to our mind the best answer we've seen for a difficulty experienced by more shooters than we sometimes realize.

Here's what Morden told us about his problem, and his rifle:

"I have shot rifles for thirty-odd years, using a normal position from the right shoulder and sighting with the right eye. Unfortunately, however, in the last four or five years my right eye has gone bad—a cataract—and is completely useless as far as shooting is concerned.

"When I went to Africa in 1947 I tried shooting a bolt-action rifle from the left shoulder. I found that old habits are hard to break and it was no great success. So quite recently—I am going to Alaska where I hope to have a chance at the big brown bear—it occurred to me that I might get a telescope sight which would compensate for the impaired vision of my right eye. With this in mind, I put the proposition up to Mr. Seymour Griffin of Griffin & Howe, Inc., in New York City. He promptly stated that there was no scope sight available which would compensate for my bad right eye. He did say, however, that during the war his firm had made several thousand offset mounts for telescopes to be used on the Garand rifle for sniping purposes. This, of course, was because the Garand has top ejection and the scope cannot be mounted directly over the action. In the case of the Garand the stock had been built out on the left side in order to bring the right eye of the shooter into line with the telescope. Griffin told me that he saw no reason why a telescope could not be mounted far enough to the left to be used with the shooter's left eye. Instead of adding to the stock he proposed to take away some of the stock and comb in order to move the right cheek closer toward the center line, thus bringing the left eye into line with the offset scope. It seemed a worthwhile possibility and I promptly ordered two, one for my .30-'06 Hoffman Mauser and a similar mount for my .375 H&H Magnum. These have now been delivered and I have targeted both arms with excellent results.



"At first there was a question as to whether the fairly heavy recoil of the .375 might not be unpleasant inasmuch as my face would be considerably farther to the right than it would be with a stock of normal dimensions. I found, however, that there was practically no difference in the feel of the recoil. The accompanying photograph shows graphically how the stock was cut down in order to allow use of the left eye.

"The scope that I have had mounted on these two rifles is the 2½-power Alaskan; however, I see no reason why any other scope of similar type could not be so mounted.

"A question was raised among some of my friends as to whether, having always used my right eye (which was the master eye) for shooting, I would not find it difficult to switch to the left eye. However, the deterioration in my right eye has been fairly gradual and I have found that whereas I had normally used the right eye for sighting I have gradually reached the point where I practically close that eye and use the left eye as the master. A case in point occurred recently when I inadvertently picked up *(Continued on page 34)*

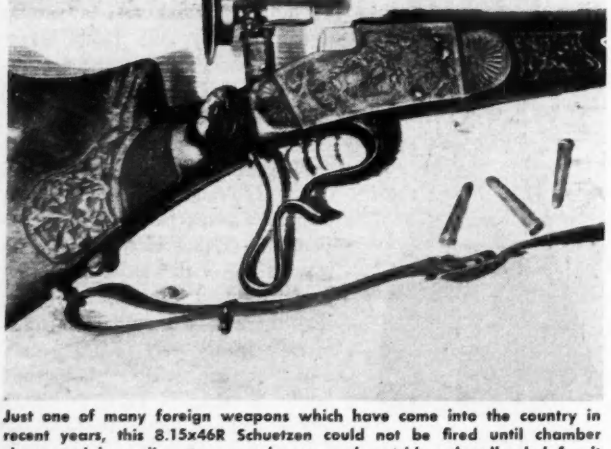
Big-game hunter Morden demonstrates his new .375 Magnum with offset scope mount. Above, detail of his rifle shows the method of mounting sight, and reshaped stock as worked out by Griffin and Howe

Deciphering Foreign Rifles

By FRED M. SEGUIN

WHEN A GUY WALKS into Billy Cox's gunshop in New York City looking worried and carrying a paper-wrapped gun, he's in trouble. Following well-worn precedent, he will unroll the paper and hand the gun to Cox, saying, "Please, you fix it up." It happened again the other day. The gun, a fine three-barreled Drilling by Sauer, had top barrels of twelve gauge. Cox removed the forearm and read the data stamped on the hopelessly wrecked rifle barrel beneath the smoothbores. The marks told that the barrel was chambered for the 7.8 x 57-mm. rimmed rifle cartridge (commonly called the 8-mm. rimmed), proofed for smokeless powder, and the 13-gramme (200 grains) bullet.

The fellow said the gun had been brought from Germany



Just one of many foreign weapons which have come into the country in recent years, this 8.15x46R Schuetzen could not be fired until chamber shape and bore diameter were known and cartridges handloaded for it

by his GI son. A number of different rifle cartridges had been obtained which were dropped into the chamber of the gun until one was found which seemed to fit. The cartridge was, of all things, a .38 WCF, the common .38-40, with jacketed bullet and high-velocity loading. To make a long story short, the fellow fired eight of the cartridges before the forward eight inches of rifle barrel blew off. Judging from the appearance of the torn metal, each of the .40-caliber (for the .38-40 is really .40 caliber) bullets had been slammed far along the .32 barrel before they stuck. Finally, even Krupp fluid steel could stand no more such mistreatment and the rifle barrel blew, luckily without injuring the shooter. Several pieces of the rifle barrel hit the thin shotgun barrels, denting both deeply in a number of places. Thus an excellent firearm of foreign manufacture was ruined because no careful attempt had been made to learn the ammunition it was made to use.

There is no excuse for such accidents. If a shooter possesses a foreign or domestic rifle and he does not know what caliber of ammunition the weapon is designed to fire, examination of the markings on the gun will frequently give sufficient information to enable him to obtain or load ammunition for it.

The owners of German guns, for instance, can find out what ammunition a gun takes by removing the forearm and looking underneath the barrel for stamps indicating the caliber and case length. Thus, 12 x 65 mm. or 12 x 70 mm. indicates a weapon made for the 2 9/16-inch or 2¾-inch case in 12 gauge. Marks such as 6.5 mm. 52, 8 mm. 48 and 7 mm. 57 indicate rifle cartridges easily obtained. Many European rifle-makers produced arms chambered for cartridges commonly used in this country but the caliber on them is always designated by the metric system. Thus, rifles marked 5.6 mm. 35R, 5.6 mm. 52R, 6.5 mm. 52R, 7.62 mm. 52R, are made for the .22 Hornet, the .22 Savage High Power, the .25-35 and .30-30.

Not long ago one fellow came into Cox's shop with a superb Circassian-stocked, heavy-barreled, bolt-action rifle by Krieghoff of Suhl. The stampings proclaimed it to be made for the 7.62 x 63 mm., a .30-caliber cartridge with a case 63 millimeters long. Cox handed back the rifle.

"My friend," quoth he, "buy yourself some .30-'06's, load them into the rifle and shoot them, and be happy. Farewell."

The gun was unusual but not rare. Before the war several European gunmakers made .30-'06 rifles for a discriminating clientele, but it was a bit surprising to see the cartridge under the metric designations.

Sometimes, however, a weapon will come to hand with no markings to designate the cartridge. It may be a foreign gun but many older American rifles have no markings to tell the caliber of ammunition the guns use. There are just two facts about an unmarked rifle which must be known before the proper ammunition can be obtained for it, though it is wise to have an unmarked gun of unknown condition checked by a gunsmith to learn if it is safe to fire. First, what is the diam-

Before the war European rifles were frequently chambered for several American cartridges which were known under their European designation. A shooter can fire American cartridges in such European rifles safely, providing the guns are in good condition. Designations of cartridges used in Europe and America are:

European	American
5.6 x 35R	*.22 Hornet*
5.6 x 52R	*.22 Savage*
6.5 x 52	*.25 Remington*
6.5 x 52R	*.25-35*
7 x 57	*7-mm. Mauser*
7.62 x 51R	*.30-30*
7.62 x 53R	*7.62 Russian*
7.62 x 63	*.30-'06 Springfield*
.303-inch Mark VI or VII	*.303 British*
8 x 56	*8-mm. Mannlicher-Schoenauer (M1908)*
8 x 57	*8-mm. Mauser*

There are no American cartridges made or recommended for the 6.5-mm. Italian service rifles or for the 6.5- or 7.7-mm. Japanese rifles as issued.

eter of the bullet used in the barrel? Second, what is the shape of the cartridge case that fits the chamber? To learn these facts about a rifle, remove the barrel and action from the stock, then strip off all parts necessary to permit access to the breech in preparation for making a cast of the chamber and bore.

Here are the simple mechanics of making a chamber cast. Go to the drugstore and buy two-bits worth of flower of sulphur, which will be enough to make several casts. Take a small cork that is just a little bigger than the rifle bore, requiring slight pressure to make it enter, and punch or drill a hole about halfway down through the center of it. Into the hole insert a wire—1/16-inch diameter is good—long enough to extend through the cast from one end to the other and leave enough sticking out to form a handle for managing the cast after it is removed from the chamber. Slip a small tube, the outside diameter of which is smaller than the bore diameter of the barrel, over the wire and push the cork with wire attached through the chamber, from breech end, and into the bore far enough so that about an inch of rifling will be included in the cast. The cork acts as a seal for the molten sulphur and as a cushion for the pressure applied to remove the cast after it has hardened. The wire, besides being a handle, serves to reinforce the brittle cast.

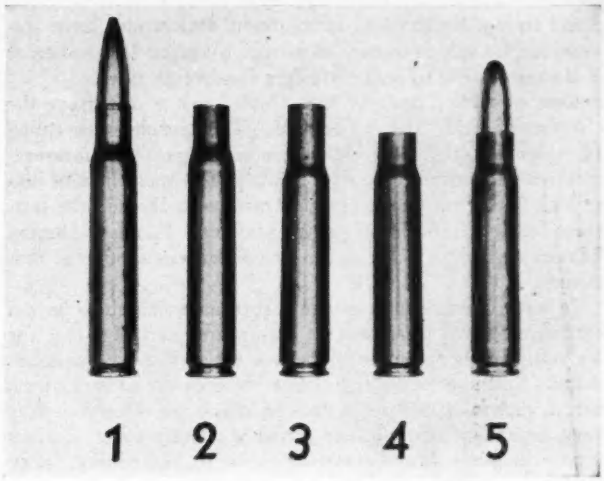
Pour some sulphur into a can and put it on the stove over a low flame. If melted slowly, the sulphur will be thin, a good consistency for pouring. If sulphur is heated too fast or too hot, it will become too thick to pour well. Should this happen, allow the sulphur to cool a little and slowly heat it to the thin consistency desired. Stirring with a clean stick or iron spoon may aid in thinning the sulphur. No other ingredients are necessary to make a satisfactory cast.

Brush or blow some graphite powder into the dry chamber to permit easy removal of the cast, and, holding the gun in a vertical position, pour the molten sulphur into the chamber to a depth that will include the counterbore (rim recess) of a rimmed cartridge chamber or just overflow the chamber of a rimless cartridge. If too much sulphur is poured, there is sometimes difficulty in removing the cast from the chamber. Then it is necessary to chip the overflow out with a knife, being careful not to cut the cast so deep that the impression of the counterbore or head end of the chamber will be ruined.

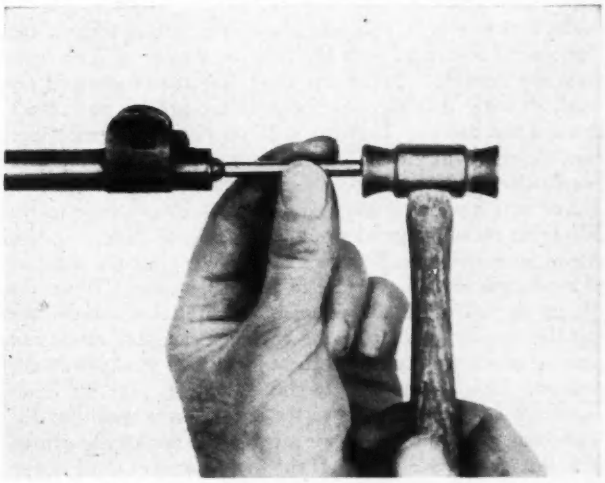
After making the cast, the gun should be laid aside for a short while to allow the sulphur to set completely. The cast can then be removed by inserting a ramrod into the muzzle of the rifle and applying gentle pressure on the cork. As the cast is backed out of the chamber, it should be handled carefully because it is quite brittle.

Besides the impression of the chamber shape, the cast will include a perfect impression of throat and bore. All important clues from which it is possible to determine the proper cartridge for the gun are given by a good, solid cast. That part of the cast which hardened in the bore will, of course, when measured with a micrometer, tell you the caliber of the bullet. Next measure the diameter of the case neck, and the diameters at the shoulder (if a bottle-necked case) and just ahead of the rim. Then measure the length of the case from rim to shoulder, length of taper and neck. When a rimmed cartridge is involved, the diameter and depth of counterbore should be taken. In bolt-action rifles, important counterbore dimensions are usually on the face of the bolt. In most others, the dimensions are on the rear end of the chamber. With these figures any ammunition dealer should be able to identify the cartridge.

Ammunition for use in rifles chambered for European cartridges is not too difficult to obtain today. A large quantity and variety is imported from North and Central European countries by American firms who advertise in the RIFLEMAN.



These are the steps in the evolution of an 8-mm. cartridge from a .30-'06 case: 1) .30-'06 cartridge, 2) empty .30-'06 case, 3) resized .30-'06 case, 4) cut off and trimmed .30-'06 case, and 5) complete 8-mm. round



When a cartridge case accompanies a foreign rifle, problem of chamber shape is solved but bore diameter must be learned by slugging barrel. In slugging, ball is started into barrel and pushed through with a ramrod

Comparing loads with chamber casts of 8x48R and .30-'06 rifles shows that a solid sulphur cast will give every dimension which must be known in order to handload ammunition for a foreign rifle of unusual caliber

Some custom loaders and ammunition dealers also have ammunition for sale to owners of foreign weapons. Of course, it is always possible to load cartridges for foreign rifles.

One ex-soldier brought into Cox's shop a cast from the chamber of a rifle he had liberated. The cast obviously called for a long, straight, large-diameter cartridge. The measurements corresponded to no data available to Cox so he sent him to Phil Medicus, the ammunition man, who checked the cast, then handed him the right ammunition, 11.15 x 68-mm. Mauser cartridges. Cox says he had never seen another of that caliber.

In some cases the gun owner is fortunate enough to have a cartridge or two or at least an empty fired cartridge case for his rifle, which automatically solves the problem of chamber shape. Still it is desirable to know the groove diameter of the barrel, especially of foreign guns in which the dimension may vary, depending on origin and period of manufacture. Correct groove diameter is an important factor in ammunition, since it affects accuracy and aids in controlling breech pressure.

Here's how to measure or slug a barrel. A lead ball, the diameter of which is slightly larger than the groove diameter of the barrel, is started into the muzzle of the rifle with a short brass rod. Then the slug is pushed all the way through the barrel with a ramrod. As lead is soft and easily deformed, the slug should be caught with the hand or a cloth as it emerges from the chamber. Make sure the rifling marks are well defined, showing that the slug followed the grooves as it went through the barrel. Together with an empty fired cartridge case, the slug will give enough information to enable you or a handloader to identify and load ammunition for your rifle.

And now a word of warning. Some shooters persist in the belief that because a gun looks like it is in good condition, it is safe to fire; others that because a cartridge fits into the chamber of a rifle, the cartridge is safe to fire in that gun. When the trigger is pulled on any weapon, the pressures released by rapidly burning powder in the chamber can play mean and unusual tricks, particularly if there is physical weakness in the weapon. It is always wise to check a foreign rifle for headspace and examine its parts to see if they were made for the individual gun, since European arms were not manufactured with interchangeable parts. If the shooter cannot check a gun himself, he should have a qualified gunsmith do it. ♦ ♦ ♦

Center 5's Again

Continued from page 17

never make the mistake of applying the rule of the thumb that one click equals one inch for every hundred yards of range. He will not become a distinguished marksman laboring under such misapprehension. One click on the M1 for windage or elevation at any range from 200 yards up will jump the bullseye. If the shooter hits in the black, he had better let well enough alone. The normal come-ups with the M1 sight between ranges should be as follows:

200 to 300 yards	2 clicks
300 to 500 yards	7-9 clicks
500 to 600 yards	4-5 clicks
600 to 1000 yards	Only the good Lord knows.

By jumping the bullseye is meant, for example: At 600 yards a shot is just in at three o'clock. With an '03 a shooter could touch up a light quarter and shoot, but oh my if he puts on a click with the M1 he stands three chances—either in or out at nine o'clock or sometimes, to his consternation, he will hit the spotter in the same place. In which case, the shooter should not make the mistake of adding another click or he will probably end up in the three-ring at nine o'clock. The same holds true for elevation changes. What can be done? The shooter can favor the side of the bullseye desired or vary his sight alignment. The latter solution is not recommended for the novice because disaster is likely to follow. At long-range firing, the main thing is to watch the center of the group and try to keep it as near to the center of the target as possible. A shooter need not be too concerned if he hits outside of the V-ring or gets an occasional four because those shots will come in spite of everything that can be done, no matter what star in the Zodiac he is favored by.

We Marines like to shoot the M1 as much as we did the '03, even better, but service and civilian shooters who grew up with the '03 should realize there is certain match conditioning for the M1 which is prerequisite to approaching the possibility of shooting center fives. It is firmly believed that the Garand will shoot as accurately as the '03 but three things are necessary in order to get back into accurate match competition:

1) Redesign the rear sights on the M1 whereby the present clicks will be subdivided into at least two additional clicks.

2) Cut down the front sight to about a No. 5 and reduce the aperture on the rear sight to about a No. 4 or 5.

3) Start production again of boattail match ammunition of 172-180 grain weight.

When these things are accomplished big-bore shooters can again have competitions with a weapon they will enjoy shooting, one that is capable of top performance. ♦ ♦ ♦

Right hand . . . Left eye

Continued from page 31

my wife's .30-'06, which has the scope mounted in the normal position. I put it to my shoulder and was amazed to find that I couldn't line up the scope. I tried to force my cheek harder against the stock to get my eye in line. Some little time had passed when I discovered that I had my right eye closed and was trying to sight with my left eye. This indicated to me that in the short time I had had the offset scope it had become natural to close my right eye and use the left. Subsequent use has borne out this conclusion.

"I have since found that there are quite a number of shooters who have deterioration in their right eyes. Many of them have been trying to learn to shoot left-handed, generally with little success. A good friend of mine who is similarly handicapped, and who has been trying for several years to learn to shoot and operate a bolt-action rifle from his left shoulder, has ordered one of these offset scopes and feels that it will be a great boon to him. I have hopes that others may find it the same." ♦ ♦ ♦

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: *Please report changes of address direct to the National Rifle Association, allowing five weeks before change is to take effect. Be sure to send your old address, preferably address label from the* RIFLEMAN, *together with new address. Copies that have been mailed to an old address will not be forwarded by the Post Office unless extra postage is sent to that office by the subscriber. Avoid such expense, and make sure of getting your* RIFLEMAN *promptly each month by notifying the NRA direct, in advance of change. Address the National Rifle Association, 1600 Rhode Island Avenue, Washington 6, D. C.*

COMMANDO CONVERSION

By Thomas H. Morgan

I'M ONE OF THOSE sharpshooters who sold his shooting irons at a profit during the war, thinking I could buy them back after the war at the old price. What happened? I was stuck with a Commando .38 and no dough.

Since the Colt Commando was a good-shooting gun, I sat down to see what could be done to improve it.

First, I decided on a longer barrel. Let me point out there is no reason the job can't be done with the short barrel since the gun shot very well before the conversion. But, having convinced myself a longer barrel was needed for balance, looks and distance between the sights, I sent to Colt's and got a six-inch barrel.

The gun was taken apart and all parts polished on a small stone, carefully removing the rough edges. Because there was a little side play of the trigger on the pin, the holes in the trigger and frame were enlarged slightly and a piece of drill rod which fit tightly was substituted for the pin. Having done the same thing on a couple of my other guns, I find it definitely improves the smoothness of the trigger pull. Next, the fixed sight was carefully filed off the frame.

Fitting the new barrel was a story by itself. Taking a 9/16-inch square nut, I reamed out the threads and polished the hole with fine emery cloth wrapped around a stick of proper size. I cut a 1/8-inch slot through the center of one side of the nut. Then a 3/16-inch hole was drilled to take a 3/16-inch round-head machine screw through the side in which the 1/8-inch cut had been made. The nut was put onto the barrel, the slot fitting past the front sight. I inserted the screw in the hole and put the proper size nut on, working the 9/16-inch nut down the barrel as close to the receiver as possible. I tightened the 3/16-inch screw and nut as tightly as possible, clamped the whole works in the vise, put a wrench on the 9/16-inch nut and gave it a sharp blow with a hammer. Off came the barrel. The inside of the polished nut didn't even mark the barrel slightly.

Next, the front sight was filed off the new barrel. I then took a round-head brass screw (1/4 inch) and used it to chamfer the receiver end of the barrel with valve-grinding

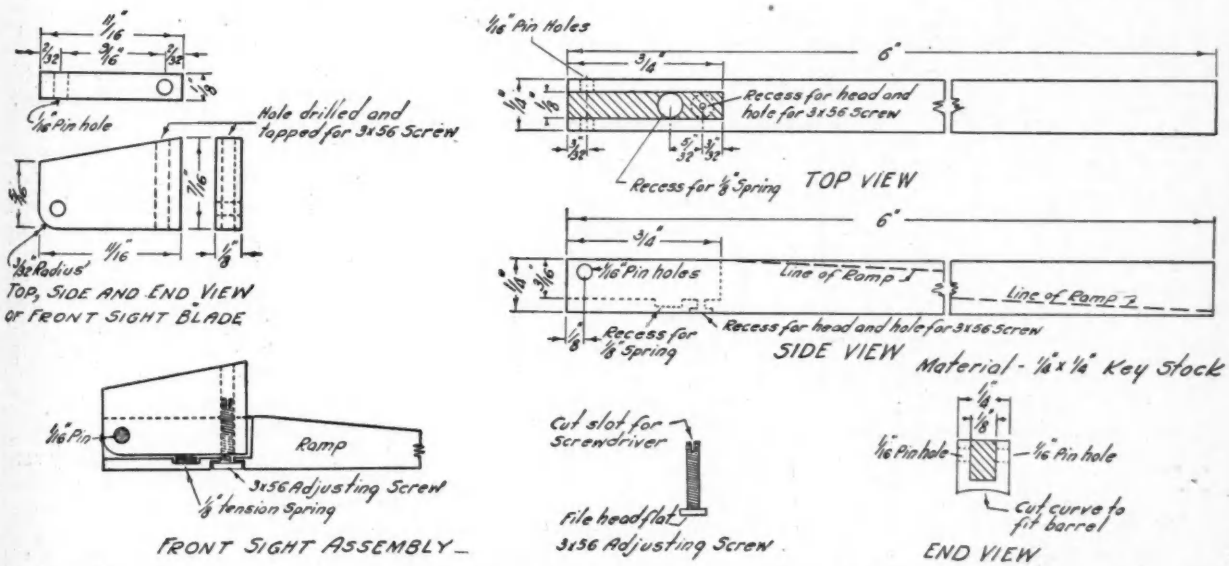


Fig. 1: Dimensional drawings of the front sight assembly and the front sight ramp used in converting a Colt Commando to a target arm

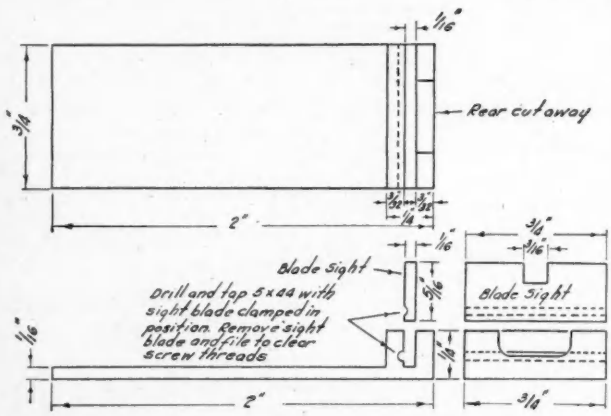
compound, the screw being held tightly in the breast drill.

Somewhere (Clyde Baker's book I think) I have read that in fitting a barrel no stock should come off the receiver but all off the shoulder on the barrel. However, the receiver of my Commando looked as if it were bitten off on a bias and it was tool marked, so I took stock off the receiver. By dipping a paper match in oil and lighting it, I'd blacken the receiver, bring the barrel up tightly, and back it off carefully, filing off the high spots. Repeating the operation until the flat on the bottom of the barrel was within a 1/16-inch turn of being right, I brought it up with a sharp hammer blow and the wrench. By working slowly and carefully, a nice fit can be achieved.

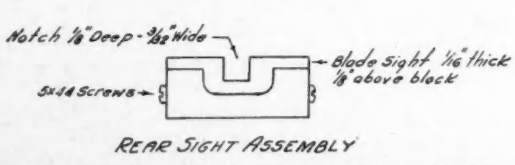
Next, the cylinder was put back on and the end of the barrel was filed to .003-inch clearance.

For use in making the sights, I bought two pieces of key stock at Sears and Roebuck's, one ¼-inch square and one ¾ x ¼ inches. I cut a slot 3/16-inch deep, ½-inch long, and ⅛-inch wide in front end of the ¼ x ¼-inch stock. One-eighth inch from the back of the slot and through the bottom of the slot, I drilled a clearance hole for a 3/56 screw. I turned the piece over and drilled a hole large enough to clear the head of the 3/56 screw nearly through, leaving a thin web of metal to keep the head of the screw from passing through; then I filed down the head of the screw so it fitted well up into the bottom hole. After shaping a piece of stock ⅛-inch thick, ⅜-inch wide, and slightly shorter than the slot for a sight blade, I centered a 1/16-inch hole 1/16 inch from the bottom and 1/16 inch from the end of the sight blade and slightly rounded the end. I drilled the same size hole in the key stock through the front end of the slot 1/16 inch from the end and ⅛ inch from the bottom. I cut the end off the drill and slightly flattened one end and drove it through the three holes to act as a pin.

With the sight blade in position, I marked it on the bottom through the small hole in the back end of the ramp and



TOP, SIDE AND END VIEWS



REAR SIGHT ASSEMBLY

Fig. 2: Explanation of rear sight to replace fixed sight on Colt Commando

drilled and tapped for a 3/56 screw. (I would advise drilling and tapping the hole in the sight blade first, as it is not easy to do. I spoiled three pieces before getting a straight hole.)

A slot for a small screwdriver which I made from a No. 45 drill was cut in the end of the screw. One-quarter inch forward of the screw hole in the key stock I drilled a ⅛-inch recess for a spring. Assembled, the front sight works very nicely. The spring keeps a slight constant pressure on the sight which prevents the adjusting screw from coming loose (see Fig. 1).

Cutting the key stock to fit the curve of the barrel is a job. First, I cut a wedge-shaped slot all along the bottom and fitted it on the barrel with a round file by spotting it with oiled matches as described before. The fit should be perfect or solder will show when it is soldered to the barrel (but the job is the kind that leaves a fellow walking in circles talking to himself). After filing the ramp to a taper and finding the proper position by bore sighting, it was soldered on by carefully tinning both ramp and barrel, clamping the ramp in place, and heating it until the solder melted.

After a short period of recuperation in a local mental hospital, I tackled the rear sight. The ¾-inch x ¼-inch stock was cut down to the shape of an L with a shank 1/16 x 2 x ¾ inches and a base ¼ x ¼ x ¾ inches (see Fig. 2).

Fitted with a new barrel, a moveable rear sight, a new front sight and front sight ramp, the author's converted Colt Commando looked like this

A 1/16-inch slot was cut across the ¼-inch base to within 1/16 inch of the bottom. A 1/16-inch piece of stock which extended ⅛ inch above the top was fitted in the slot. By clamping the stock securely in position, the two pieces can be drilled and tapped, with about 1/3 the radius engaging the piece fitted in the slot, for a 5/44 screw. Then the 1/16-inch piece of stock can be removed and the threads filed out of the ¼-inch base. If the holes in the base are filed out carefully, the screws will prevent the sight from moving up. I filed out the center of the block leaving a ¼ inch on each side. I cut a slot .090 or 3/32-inch wide in the 1/16-inch piece and I had a rear sight. By putting a 5/44 screw ¼-inch long in each end with the 1/16-inch stock in place, very precise lateral adjustment of the sight blade can be obtained.

After carefully spotting the assembly on the already cut-down receiver, the gun and sight were tinned and the assembly soldered on and trimmed down smoothly with a file and emery cloth. Then I took the gun to the range and after some careful filing on the rear sight got it to center the shots at 45 feet with the front sight blade ½ way up, which left a ⅛-inch up or down movement on the front sight blade.

The gun had to be blued, so I took it apart again and went to work on it with different grades of emery and elbow grease. It is almost impossible to get all the tool marks out without machine equipment, but I did a fair to middlin' job and let it go. A friend with a bluing tank dropped the gun in while he was bluing and it came out grand.

The cost was $6.50 for the barrel, about $2.50 for drills, taps and stock—and about 40 hours of brute strength—making a total of $37 in all (the gun cost $28 new). Not bad. Now I have a gun that shoots good and looks good.

THE SPOTTING SCOPE -- November 1949

New York City police and other exponents of the theory that none except policemen and soldiers be permitted to have pistols are redfaced following suspension of a Gotham detective for the shooting of a civilian near a Bronx tavern. . . . The Police Department surgeon who examined the detective pronounced him unfit for duty because he had been over-indulging in alcoholic beverages! . . . An orchid to safety-conscious Dr. B. P. Carey, of Lincoln, Nebraska. . . . Advertised Dr. Carey in the Lincoln Sunday Journal and Star, apropos of selling some excess hunting equipment: "I will not sell any firearm to anyone not cheerfully willing to prove to my satisfaction that he can and will handle it safely or that he wants to and will learn firearms safety and etiquette.". . . And along the same lines . . . the Centinella Park pistol range at Inglewood, California, has been reopened to the public, under daily supervision of police rangemaster Victor B. O'Connor. Police chief Carl C. Cupp, whose idea it was, comments: "It is the desire of the police department that all owners of pistols and revolvers should be thoroughly familiar with their safe operation and maintenance.". . . Youngsters in Inglewood are invited to take their rifles to the police range for safe shooting instruction. Congratulations to a progressive police department!

Here's another candidate for transatlantic postal matches with US shooters . . . this time, the Braintree and District Rifle League. This English group wants matches for 8-man teams, small bore. If interested, contact A. H. Ager, 2 Mill Lane, Witham, Sussex, England. . . . N. H. Roberts, beloved writer and old gun authority who died last year, will have his memory perpetuated by a trophy to be awarded annually as a feature of the muzzle-loader matches held each fall at historic Fort Ticonderoga, New York. . . . Five matches will make up the Roberts Aggregate. Friends of Major Roberts may help by sending contributions for purchase of the trophy to George H. Spring, Ticonderoga, New York.

Reports reaching NRA Headquarters indicate best-yet summer camp marksmanship season . . . with indication that over 50,000 youngsters got a real introduction to rifle shooting during the summer of 1949. Over eight hundred NRA-affiliated camps participated . . . and according to majority, rifle shooting was most popular of summer camp sports. . . . If you're in Spokane, look up the indoor rifle range of Moose Lodge 161. Its downtown location makes visiting easy, and you won't regret the time spent.

Remember Wally Taber's story, 'Chucks--Western Style' in the May issue? Newspaperman Taber made some claims that had the boys hopping . . . 800 and 1,000 yard hits on the little animals. Right after that we published a letter from a shooter who tongue-in-cheeked a yarn about 1,800 foot straight-up shots at chucks on the rim of the Snake River canyon. We're surprised at the number of readers who swallowed letter-writer Thomas' tall tale with nary a question. Four months have gone by and we're still receiving letters proving it can't be done!

Hopeful note: A shooting range has been established . . . with full cooperation of the authorities . . . in Wooster Mountain State Park, near Danbury, Connecticut. Though limited to skeet and trap layouts, establishment of this range should serve as a pointer for rifle and pistol clubs on the look-out for range sites. . . . This is the first time any state park commission has allowed the establishment of a public shooting ground in a state park. Wooster Mountain Gun Club members report no difficulty in getting the commission's permission . . . they supplied the funds, but will not restrict use of the range. . . . State park commissions of other states will probably follow suit if properly approached . . . and if the ranges, like the parks, will be open to the public!

Publisher's miracle: Richard Gordon McCloskey, who edits Sportsman's Press books, reports 800 copies of the Bench Rest Shooter's Annual sold before the first copy was off the presses. Nice thing about it was that Sportsman's Press, an affiliate of Infantry Journal, published the yearbook on a non-profit basis, just to help the game. . . . Credit comic-strip artist Don Heilman, whose 'American Adventure' appears daily, with good intentions at least. Though John Alden and company don't always handle their flintlocks in the best tradition, the detail in his drawings proves that he has done a lot of digging to find out about early American firearms . . . which is more than can be said for most illustrators.

Ray Stann

Twelve-Man U.S. Team Readying For World Championship Attempt

When the guns start cracking in Buenos Aires on November 4, the United States will be represented by one of the strongest rifle and pistol squads the National Rifle Association has ever sent overseas. The twelve firing members of the 1949 International Shooting Union entry (6 rifle, 6 pistol), survivors of gruelling elimination tests which were held at Des Moines, Iowa, Ft. Sheridan, Ill., and Quantico, Va., are tried veterans of both national and international competition. The same is true of the team captain, Colonel Paul Martin, and team coach and adjutant, Colonel Charles Densford.

Here are brief sketches of the fourteen members of the United States team:

Colonel Paul Martin, a Regular Army officer now stationed in Washington, D. C., with the General Staff Corps, began a distinguished shooting career at Norwich University, Vermont, 29 years ago. Col. Martin captained the 1920-1921 Norwich rifle team which won the National Intercollegiate Championship. Upon graduation, he accepted a commission in the Regular Army and throughout the years his marksmanship and interest in shooting has not waned.

Martin was captain of the U. S. Cavalry Rifle and Pistol Team in 1939-1940; and coach of the same team in 1927, and from 1935 to 1938. He has been a firing member on three international teams—the U. S. Palma Team which fired in Ottawa, Canada, in 1924, the U. S. free-rifle team which competed in Rome, Italy, in 1927, and again with the latter team at The Hague, Holland, in 1928. He was the national free-rifle champion in 1927, and a member of the championship national pistol team in 1931.

Colonel Charles Densford, team coach and adjutant, caught the shooting bug at West Point in 1928, while still a plebe. By his senior year he was the number one pistol shooter at the Academy and captain of the school team. Upon graduation in 1931, Colonel Densford entered the Air Corps and has continued to shoot in pistol tournaments throughout the country. While never a national champion, he has won several state crowns, held records over various courses and has never made a bad showing at any tournament. Densford was selected as adjutant and coach of the 1949 team because of his wide experience in coaching and administrative work, plus a thorough knowledge of Spanish America.

Arthur C. Jackson hails from Brooklyn, N. Y. Though only in his twenties, Jackson has been an outstanding shooter for years. He is versatile in his excellence, having mastered position shooting with both the big bore and smallbore guns. This will be the Brooklynite's second go-round in international competition, having been a member of the American Olympic free-rifle squad last year. To prove his versatility, Jackson qualified for the International Team this year by being high man with the smallbore at the Des Moines, Iowa, tryouts. He got 1122 out of a possible 1200 over the tough international three-position course at 50 meters.

August Westergaard is known to the old-timers in the shooting game as the son of Chris Westergaard. August has had a peculiar career in the shooting game. Of all things, he had to learn to shoot from the prone position to become an international shooter. Born and brought up in Whiting, Iowa, the heart of the Schuetzen game in America, he grew up a strong off-hand and kneeling shooter but weak when shooting prone. Last year he failed to make the Olympic team because of the strange weakness and went back home determined to master the low position. That he worked hard is proved by the fact he qualified for the squad by finishing second to Jackson in the smallbore tryouts.

Arthur E. Cook. A recapitulation of Cookie's shooting feats is almost a waste of time.

Colonel Charles Densford (left) is team adjutant and coach; Colonel Paul Martin is captain.

For the records, however, the young Washingtonian qualified for the international team this year in the free rifle tryouts at Quantico, Va.; is the present Olympic smallbore champion; was the 1948 national rifle champion; the 1946 national junior champion and is the man to beat if you want to finish first in any tournament in which he toes the line with you. Cook was second high in the Quantico tryouts, getting a 2078 out of a possible 2400.

Robert Sandager calls Minneapolis, Minn., his home. Sandager is perhaps the least known member of the international squad. Back in his college days, he was one of the best shots in intercollegiate ranks, making the All-American team in 1936 and 1937. In the last few years, he has not been very active in registered competition, but at the Quantico free rifle tryouts was high man with a score of 2138 out of the possible 2400 points. Obviously, he is an excellent marksman who has chosen to shoot just for fun, in his own backyard, when a place on an international squad is not at stake.

Emmet O. Swanson is president of the National Rifle Association and a practicing

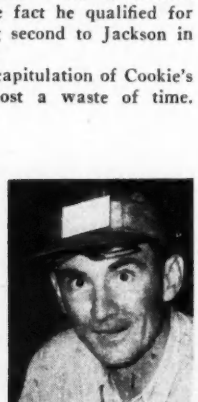
(Continued on page 41)

These are US representatives in Buenos Aires:

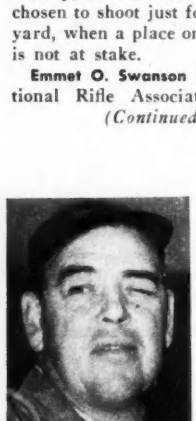
Parsons

Logie

Sandager



Toney



Hancock

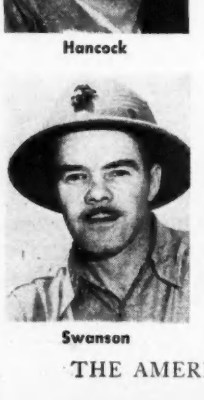
Borneman

Westergaard

Cook

Reeves

Jackson



Swanson

Benner

1949-'50 GALLERY SCHEDULE

The NRA will publish the 1949-50 schedule to cover all tournaments registered for the gallery season. It has been proved the listing gives the tournament sponsor the best possible advertisement for his tournament, and, at the same time, places in the hands of the competitor a complete list of all tournaments. Competitors are then in a position to plan the tournaments in which they wish to fire.

The schedule will be mailed to all registered tournament competitors, NRA affiliated club secretaries, registered tournament sponsors and, upon request, any other NRA member. The deadline for listing in the schedule of all NRA approved rifle and pistol tournaments will be December 1, 1949. The schedule will be mailed on or about December 15.

The NRA is mailing all club secretaries application forms for listing of tournaments. It will not be necessary for the sponsors to have the final form of their program in the NRA office at the time of application.

In order to expedite the approval of all tournaments and avoid possible conflictions, it is requested that tournament sponsors of each general area have a meeting and establish coordinated dates for tournaments. It will make for a better over all program in each area and save a great amount of correspondence on the part of all concerned.

After the schedules have been printed and distributed, only the Class B Tournaments will be carried in the coming events column of THE RIFLEMAN.

WINTER INDOOR LEAGUES

With the 1949-50 gallery rifle and pistol season upon us, all club and league secretaries should turn their attention toward the organization and registration of a league program. The NRA is mailing all affiliated club and previously registered league secretaries complete information and applications for the forthcoming season.

Any club or group of clubs, affiliated with the NRA, may form a league and have it registered so long as it has at least three teams participating.

The 1949-50 program again offers competitive activity among local teams and gives the winning team from each league the opportunity to fire for state and national honors and awards. The course of fire for

CHANGES IN MAJOR NATIONAL RECORDS:

Indoor Small Bore 50 Feet Records

		Date	Score
Individual, Metallic Sights:			
Prone (40 shots)	Robert Gregory, LaPorte, Ind.	1949	240 Consec. 10's
20 shots kneeling	Arthur Cook, Washington, D. C.	1949	198
20 shots prone & standing	Al Chandler, Woodhaven, N. Y.	1949	386
10 shots four positions	Jay J. Smith, Casper, Wyo.	1949	390
Individual, Any Sights:			
20 shots prone & standing	W. Seagly, Topeka, Kansas	1949	393
10 shots three positions (PKS)	Arthur Cook, Washington, D. C.	1949	295
10 shots four positions	Otto Kolb, Pelham, N. Y.	1949	395
Individual, Metallic Sights (Jr)			
Prone (30 shots)	Miss Beverly Phallen, Mansfield, Ohio	1949	85 Consec. 10's
20 shots sitting	Frederick Gunn, Alexandria, Va.	1949	198
20 shots kneeling	Roy Oster, Havertown, Pa.	1949	191
20 shots prone & standing	Al Chandler, Woodhaven, N. Y.	1949	386
10 shots three positions	Gene Homles, Ashland, Ohio	1949	288
Individual, Any Sights (Jr)			
Prone (40 shots)	Harry Palmer, Cheltenham, Pa.	1949	53 Consec. 10's
10 shots prone & standing	Alfred Chandler, Brooklyn, N. Y	1949	196
10 shots three positions (PKS)	Gene Holmes, Ashland, Ohio	1949	288
10 shots four positions	Al Chandler, Woodhaven, N. Y.	1949	389
Individual Metallic Sights (Women)			
20 shots kneeling	Betty Balinger, Arlington, Va.	1949	190
20 shots prone & standing	Audrey Blue, McLean, Va.	1949	369
Individual, Any Sights (Women)			
10 shots prone & standing	Betty Ingleright, Buchanan, Mich.	1949	192
10 shots four positions	Helen Van Gaston, Chicago, Ill.	1949	382
Four-Man Team:			
Prone (20 shots)	River Road Gun Club	1949	797
20 shots prone & standing	Miami Valley Rifle Club	1949	1536

Gallery Pistol Records

Individual, .22 Caliber			
20 yard slow fire	Ralph Kline, Richmond, Calif.	1949	192
20 yards rapid fire	J. T. Brownfield, N. Arlington, N. J.	1949	197
Individual, Center Fire:			
20 yards slow fire	Alfred W. Hemming, Detroit, Mich.	1949	185
	Richard Stickley, South Bend, Ind.	1949	185

Outdoor Pistol Records

Individual, 22 Caliber			
National Match	J. Jogoda, Washington, D. C.	1949	297
Individual, .45 Caliber			
25 yards timed fire	T. E. Barrier, USMC	1949	200
National Match	H. Reeves, Detroit, Mich.	1949	295
Individual Aggregate (Slow, Rapid and Rapid and National Match)			
.22 Caliber	Hulet I. Benner, Ft. Knox, Ky.	1949	891
All Three Calibers	Hulet Benner, Ft. Knox, Ky.	1949	2636
Individual Center Fire (Women):			
Camp Perry Course	Gloria Norton, San Francisco, Calif.	1949	298

Outdoor Small Bore Records

Individual, Any Sights:			
Dewar Course	Peter Romcovitz, Newton, Pa.	1949	400-38X
40 shots at 100 yards	Arthur Cook, Washington, D. C.	1949	400-35X
	Richard H. Dorian, Kansas City, Mo.	1949	400-35X
	John J. Crowley, Clintonville, Conn.	1949	400-35X
Aggregate 40 shots at 50 yards, 100 yards, 50 meters and Dewar Course:			
Critchfield	G. Wayne Moore, Washington, Pa.	1949*	3195-236X
Any Sight	Don Mercer, Akron, Ohio	1947*	1600-124X
Individual Metallic Sights (Junior)			
40 shots at 50 yards	Joe Specht, Beverly Hills, Calif.		400-36X
Individual, Any Sights (Women)			
40 shots at 100 yards	Ruth Johnson, Washington, Pa.	1949	400-34X

*Corrections

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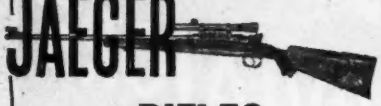

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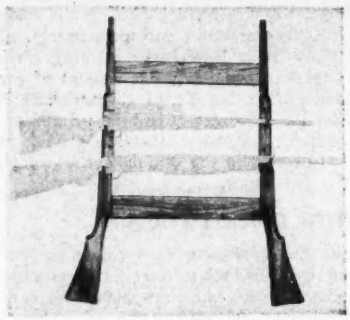

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gallery league competition is optional and may be chosen by the league members. A league handicap system may be used by the league if desired.

JUNIOR POSTAL MATCHES

The first matches of the four 1949-1950 series of NRA Junior Postal Team Matches will be held in November. Two, three and four will be held in December, January and February. Last year 721 teams entered the five separate divisions of the award and trophy loaded matches. This year the entry list is expected to pass the 800 mark.

Any NRA junior club team may enter the Open (Prone and Standing) division. Scholastic teams will have their own division, with separate awards to military and non-military teams. Non-scholastic and girl teams will compete among themselves, and the young shooters, under 14 years of age, will have a "sub-junior" division. Except for teams in the Open division, all firing will again be prone.

A new system, providing for de-centralizing of scoring, will furnish competing teams with quicker results each month.

NRA junior club instructors have been mailed full details and entry forms. Registered targets are being shipped now and many teams are at work trying to get off to a good start in the first go around.

BOCKMAN DIES

Arthur Bockman, Sr., of Ridgefield, N. J., died on Thursday, September 29, as the result of a heart attack. He was 53 years old and competed in smallbore competition right up to the time of his death. He was a very active smallbore shooter for many years, both in NRA and Swiss Rifle club competition. He was Audrey Bockman's father and responsible for her superior ability as a smallbore shooter.

Mr. Bockman was for years a very active member of the Association of New Jersey Rifle and Pistol Clubs, Inc., and was currently one of its Regional Vice Presidents. With Mr. Bockman's death, the shooting sport has lost a very good friend.

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INTERNATIONAL TEAM

(Continued from page 38)

dentist in Minneapolis, Minn. A distinguished shot with both the rifle and pistol, he is one of the two real veterans of international shooting on the 1949 American team. His world championship shooting career goes back to 1930 when he was on the American squad that cleaned up at Antwerp, Belgium. Last year he was on the Olympic squad.

Frank T. Parsons is president of his own paper company in Washington, D. C., and with Swanson is the other real veteran of international shooting on the 1949 team. Parsons was the national intercollegiate champion while in school. At present, he is one of the leading rifle college coaches in the country, keeping his George Washington University Team always near the top. While his college team has never taken the national intercollegiate crown, he has been the coach of the last two national individual intercollegiate champions. When he goes south with the American team this year, it will be his third experience in international competition. Again like Swanson, he was on the 1930 team and the 1948 Olympic squad. His score at Quantico was 1993 out of 2400.

Huelet Benner, the present National Pistol Champion, is undoubtedly one of the world's finest handgun shots. The shooting feats of the Ft. Knox, Kentucky, army sergeant are almost unbelievable. Along with Harry Reeves, he shares most of the records in the book. This will be Benner's second try in world competition, having gone to London with the Olympic team last year. Benner made this year's team by firing a 583 out of a possible 600 rapid-fire.

Harry Reeves, in the minds of thousands of followers of the pistol sport, is the best that ever was and ever will be. To the credit of Benner, he is the only man in the United States today who can give the moon-faced Harry an argument and sometimes beat him. But Reeves is still the man that has held the national crown the most times and owns the most records in the book. However, to be fair to both Reeves and Benner, it is strictly a matter of take your pick.

Charles F. Logie today is one of the ten top-ranking pistol shots in the United States, and he owes it all to a misfortune. Logie suffered an accident a few years back and was in bed for a long spell. He spent that time dry-firing. When he was put on his back, he was just an ordinary shot; when he got off it, he was one of the best. Logie is a civil engineer in Grand Rapids, Mich., and made the team by putting a rapid-fire score of 572 together with a slow-fire total of 1021 for a grand aggregate of 1593.

William A. Hancock, a captain in the United States Army stationed at Ft. Worden, Wash., is one of the leading shooters in the Pacific Northwest. While he has never been limelighted in the national picture, he is highly respected for his ability.

Frank Borneman, like Westergaard of the rifle squad, is little known except that he is a master with all three handguns and wins his share of prizes around his hometown of Quincy, Calif. West coast shooters say he is always a man to watch in the famous San Francisco shoots. His scores at the Sheridan tryouts prove that he can hit the black consistently. He put together 565 and 1023 for 1588.

William T. Toney, a United States Border Patrolman out of Kingsville, Texas, will

Bean's Duck Blind Heater Stove

This little stove is made of bright aluminum and burns canned heat. Size 7½" x 8" x 4¾" and weighs only 18 ozs. Wings on reflector-cover throw heat onto user's legs and body as desired. With door open and cover closed it serves for heating soups, bouillon, coffee, toast and sandwiches. It is a tent heater that's hard to beat. 3 to 5 cans of heat can be burned at same time. Three cans will last about 1¼ hours. Fifteen cans can be packed in heater for carrying. Price of stove and 15 cans of heat, $4.00 postpaid. Extra heat, $3.50 for a case of 100 cans F.O.B. Freeport. Write for Catalog.
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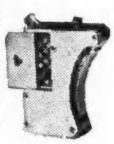

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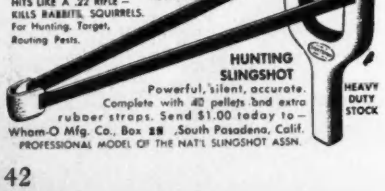

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have to put aside his personal feud with Norman Adair while he makes the trip to South America. Like Benner and Reeves on a national scale, Toney and Adair always share wins in the Far Southwest. Toney did not go too well in the 1949 National Championships, but in the International Tryouts put together a 554 rapid-fire score with a 1030 slow fire to make the international squad. He shoots as a master with all three handguns.

COMING EVENTS

State or Division Championships (Class B) and Class C Gallery Tournaments listed below. All other NRA Registered Tournaments are listed in a printed schedule that will be sent to any shooter upon request. Send your request by letter or penny postcard to the National Rifle Association, Competitions Section, 1600 Rhode Island Avenue, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

Tournaments requiring advance entries are indicated by (Adv.). Tournaments limiting the number of entires that can be accepted are indicated by (Ltd.).

Always write to the tournament sponsor for a program in advance of any Registered Tournament you plan to attend. It is your assurance that you will know all of the details and the tournment conditions.

NOVEMBER

5-6 FLORIDA—Florida West Coast Small Bore Championship at Clearwater, Florida. L. W. Abrams, 705 Prospect Avenue, Clearwater, Florida. (Adv.-Ltd.)

* **6** (C) OREGON—Second Annual Gallery Rifle Tournament at McMinnville, Oregon. Lillard L. Baltzell, 133 South Ford Street, McMinnville, Oregon

12-13 CALIFORNIA—Pacific States Fall Round-Up Rifle Championships at Monterey Park, California. Mrs. Gladys Rising, 600 North Mayo Avenue, Compton 2, California (Adv.-Ltd.)

* **11-12** (C) NEW JERSEY—Gallery Rifle Tournament at Vineland, New Jersey. Naomi Ray Lange, 514 N. W. Boulevard, Vineland, New Jersey

25-27 (B) CALIFORNIA—The Border Pistol Tournament at Calexico, California. Margaret Poindexter, 146 South 6th Street, El Centro, California (Adv.)

DECEMBER

* **17-18** (C) NEW JERSEY—Second Annual Gallery Pistol Tournament at North Bergen, New Jersey. Frank Svec, Box 42, Leonia, New Jersey

STOLEN GUNS

Woodsman, Colt, automatic, .22 caliber, #113152. Col. Thomas M. Williams, Box 292-K, Camp Mabry, Austin Tex.

Model 12 Winchester, 12-gauge pump shotgun, #588311; Pertex 8 mm. magazine camera & case, #27427. Reward. L. M. Schrecongost, 411 E. Vine St., Lodi, Calif.

Smith & Wesson K-22 Masterpiece, #35224. Notify Clint McBee or Benton County Sheriff, Prosser, Wash.

H. & R. .22 revolver, Model 922, #C-4258. McMillan's Texaco Service, King Hill, Idaho; Winchester Model 25, 12-gauge shotgun, #3336. Rosevear Hardware, Glenns Ferry, Idaho.

Smith & Wesson, .38 Spec., #C48880; Smith & Wesson, .38 Spec., #C53851; Smith & Wesson, .38 Spec., #C16004; Smith & Wesson, K-22, #K47031; Colt Officer's Model, .38 Spec., #781378; Colt Woodsman, .22 cal., #53296-S; Colt Woodsman, .22 cal., #37300-S; Colt auto., .45-22, #C234891; Hi-Standard, .22 cal., #254901; Hi-Standard, .22 cal., #249216; Hi-Standard, .22 cal., #314103; Harrington & Richardson, .22 cal., #B-7858; Remington, 12-gauge Model 11A, #408781; Ithaca Featherlite Model 37 slide action shotgun, 20-gauge; Mossberg, Model 183D, bolt action 410 gauge shotgun; Fox double bbl., 20 gauge shotgun; Stevens model 94, plastic stock shotguns, one 12-gauge, one 16-gauge; two Hy-Score air pistols. Jerry Hover's Sportsworld, 5622 North Figueroa St., Los Angeles 42, Calif.

Winchester M70 Hornet, #71283; Winchester M70 270, #53002; Winchester M71 348, #27886; Winchester M1873 44, #303196B. Henry A. Vaughan, 2720 Severance St., Los Angeles 7, Calif.

Mauser rifle 6.5mm, #88765; Winchester .257 rifle, #59998; Mannlicher 9.5mm rifle, #2432; Springfield .30-'06 rifle; Rible caliber 22-3000, barrel stamped P. O. Ackley; Rifle caliber 22-250; Colt caliber .45 C & B pistol; SS elite guard short sword with grey steel scabbard. $100.00 reward will be paid for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the persons responsible. Sigmund J. Gucfa, 1131 Broadway, Buffalo 12, N. Y.

German army Mauser 98, cal. 8mm., #1034. Paul Joosten, 5358 E. Brooklyn Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.

Dope Bag

NRA TECHNICAL SERVICE
Maj. Gen. J. S. Hatcher, Director
Edwards Brown, Jr. ● A. H. Barr ● J. S. Rose ● M. D. V

EDITED BY Al Barr

THAT NEW ARMY RIFLE

Recently a considerable volume of correspondence has been received by the NRA inspired by press notices and articles which infer that the Army has adopted or is about to adopt a new infantry rifle to replace the M1 Garand.

A typical letter was an indignant inquiry as to why the Garands aren't being sold to NRA Members instead of being given away abroad. The writer enclosed an editorial clipped from the Stockton (California) *Record:*

"GOODBYE, GARAND!—*The Garand or M1 rifle, as any doughfoot will tell you, is the weapon that won the war. Thus, the news that the Army is preparing to replace the reliable 'one man arsenal' will bring bewilderment and a sense that he is growing old to many an ex-GI. The Garand, perfected early in World War II, already is outmoded, and will be discarded for one of several lighter, faster-shooting automatics now being considered by the Department of the Army.*

"There are about 3,000,000 Garands in Army warehouses. Our Atlantic Pact allies would love to have them at gift prices. Probably they will get them. Farewell, faithful .30-caliber, gas-operated shoulder weapon. We hope the rifle that replaces you gets outmoded too before we have to use it."

Of course, the favorite question is: "What will the new rifle be like?" Obviously, no one knows that answer if, as stated in the article, it is true that it may be one of "several" guns being tested. Such tests have a way of dragging out and, moreover, often result in demands for new features or improvements, so that the final choice is usually quite different from any of the items being tested. For example, at the conclusion of the Aberdeen tests of six carbines in 1941, this magazine published an 'authoritative' article, written by a prominent Ordnance Officer, describing the new weapon. But two months later a correction had to be published, for after further tests by the Infantry an entirely different carbine was adopted and put into production. Likewise, in 1932 the Semiautomatic Rifle Board recommended in its report the adoption of a .276-caliber gun, but this 'final' decision was later overruled by the Chief of Staff and we got the .30-caliber Garand instead.

Those are some of the reasons why we cannot at this time give any details as to what the new gun will be like; but an even more compelling reason is the fact that the Army has classified the project as confidential, and we are not at liberty to divulge anything other than what has been released to the press or otherwise been made public.

The NRA Staff keeps very close liaison with the Ordnance Department and will publish further details as soon as they can be released without violating security. In the meantime, readers should remember that until a new gun is actually adopted, factories are tooled up for it, and production is started, we will have only the M1 to rely on. Even when and if a new gun is actually placed in production, it will take sometime to build up a sufficient stock to permit the release of the present standard M1 rifles, so that, as we have said before, we predict that the M1 will still be with us for sometime.—J.S.H.

.22 RUGER PISTOL

Some months ago W. B. Ruger showed us the designer's model of his new pistol, and he asked for criticisms and suggestions. Since that time Mr. Ruger and Alexander Sturm have formed the firm of Sturm, Ruger & Co. Their factory at Southport, Connecticut is now completely tooled for production and is turning out guns in quantity. We have just seen and fired two production-line samples of the .22 Ruger.

Shaped like the Luger pistol, the gun looks good and handles splendidly. It hangs and balances just right, and points naturally, which is a great aid in quick shooting. The fixed sights are well shaped and easy to see. Mr. Ruger said the trigger pull would probably not be to our liking, as the guns were taken right off the production line and not dolled up at all for our tests. Actually, one of the two samples had an excellent pull, while the other had a slight creep, but even that was not too bad.

While we have not done much firing as yet, we know that the gun has accuracy and is capable of tight groups. One very desirable feature is that the front and rear sights are both on the same piece of metal, so that there is no chance of relative motion between them, as is the case when one sight is on the barrel and the other on the moveable breech block.

Both of our sample guns grouped a little low for us, which means that the front sight is just a bit too high. That is, however, a good fault with fixed sights, for it can be corrected easily by filing the front sight.

The gun, chambered for the .22 long rifle only, weighs 36 ounces, has a 4¾-inch barrel and a nine-shot magazine. It has a thumb safety, and a quick and easy take-down. The finish is excellent, with Butaprene grips and an excellent bluing job.

One can readily see that the designer of this gun knows something about shooting as well as designing; W. B. Ruger has been a shooter all his life, was captain of his high school rifle team, and has been an NRA member since he was old enough to read.

Mr. Jack Boudreau of the Ruger factory has used a Ruger in several local matches. He placed high in several of them, and won at least two medals in September alone.

We like this new gun a lot and at the very moderate price of $37.50 it represents real value.—J.S.H.

Despite a strong resemblance to the Luger, the Ruger is American in design and manufacture

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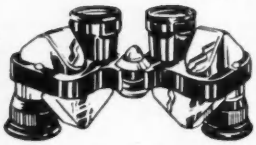

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.30 Caliber—(.3085") 150 gr., $4.50; 180 gr., $4.75.
.270 Caliber available about January 1st, others to follow.

NEW LOADING TOOLS—We recommend as good buys for the best quality.
HOLLYWOOD RELOADING TOOL—complete for 1 caliber $37.50
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REDDING POWDER & BULLET SCALE—a dandy, prepaid 11.95

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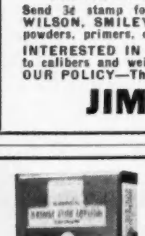

LOADERS!

Here is the new LEVEL CLIP you have been waiting for. No more worry or bother of keeping powder at the same level in your powder measure tube when measuring precise loads. With LEVEL CLIP more uniform charges can be thrown. Fits all powder measures with 2" diameter tube and will hold all 16-ounce powder cans regardless of thread size or whether square or rectangular.

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Box 636, Cashmere, Wash.

POWDER SELECTION

Lately I have become a reloading fan. Knowing very little about it, I run into all kinds of difficulties which would probably amuse an experienced man.

Before I bought any powder I consulted Sharpe's *Complete Guide to Handloading* and noticed that Hercules No. 2400 was recommended frequently for both .300 Savage and .30-'06 reduced and full-power loads, so I bought some without further advice. Later a reloader discouraged me by saying that No. 2400 was entirely too hot.

Do you think it is unsuitable for either caliber mentioned above? If it can be done safely, I would like at least to use up my present supply, as it is not possible to return a broken package.

What kind of powder would you recommend for either full or reduced loads in .30-'06? I took your advice in using No. 3031 for my .300 Savage, but I can find no recommendations for the use of No. 3031 for .30-'06 loads in Sharpe's book. Is it suitable? I would like to find a load good for about 2500 or 2600 foot-seconds with 100- or 110-grain bullet, also a full-power load with 180-grain bullet for the .30-'06.

In trying to find an accurate reduced load, how much powder would you increase or decrease for each trial? I tried 26.6 grains of No. 2400 with Remington 110-grain bullets in my .300 Savage and the best I could do was 8-inch groups at 100 yards. I know it should do better than that, because I have made 2-inch groups at that distance with factory ammunition and I am not an expert shot.—HARRY L. NEWKIRK, Spokane, Wash.

Answer: When selecting a powder for handloading, especially if you have Phil Sharpe's book with many loads listed, you should go down the list for a given caliber and select a full-power one for jacketed bullets using the powder which seems to give the highest velocity for the maximum recommended load. Then, when using reduced loads, check on the type of powder listed.

You will find No. 2400 in Sharpe's book; it is perfectly OK, definitely not too hot to load so long as you load for moderate velocity, which will give low pressure. No. 4759, which replaced No. 80, is also listed for a reduced load, especially with lead bullets.

My *Complete Guide to Handloading* by Sharpe lists a lot of No. 3031 loads for the .30-'06. Look under the section which lists the loads with corrosive primers. If using the noncorrosive type, you would reduce the maximum recommended load about five percent, or about 2½ grains for a 50-grain charge. Any charge under extreme maximum would not have to be cut when using the noncorrosive primers.

For the 180-grain bullet load, you can use No. 3031, but No. 4064 seems better and the charge for accuracy would be around 50 grains. For the 110-grain bullet load, try 49 to 51 grains of No. 3031.

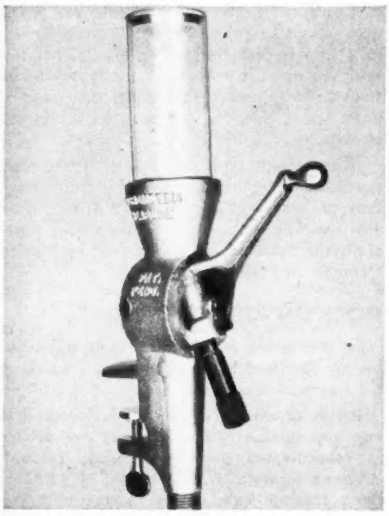
When working on reduced loads, increase or decrease the powder charge a grain at a time to start with, which is perfectly safe because you are working at low pressure levels. Then when you get along where the loads seem to give good accuracy, try ½ grain above and ½ grain below that load.

When using light bullets and trying to get maximum velocity, never use No. 2400, as No. 3031 or No. 4198 or some other powder will be better.—A. H. B.

HOLLYWOOD MICROMETER POWDER MEASURE

At the bench-rest matches in Johnstown, New York, recently we used one of the latest micrometer powder measures produced by the Hollywood Gun Shop. The measure created considerable comment and there was a lot of interest, and rightly so. It is the first commercially made powder measure having an accurate micrometer adjustment. The adjustment works exactly like any other micrometer and readings are taken accordingly.

The powder measure is designed to throw charges from 2½ grains of Bullseye up to 93 grains of No. 4350 powder merely by turning the micrometer thimble, which can be locked for a given load. We have found the powder measure very accurate, and we can definitely go back to a given powder charge merely by adjusting the thimble to the previous reading.



Hollywood's new micrometer measure

The accompanying photo shows the latest Hollywood Powder Measure with side clamp. The first measure was made without the side clamp and intended for use in the Hollywood reloading tool. However, an extra table clamp has been supplied by Hollywood for the measure we are using.

The cylinder and inside bearing surface are precision ground, and the outside of the casting is finished in hard nickel chrome to resist rust. The large plastic powder chamber holds a considerable quantity of powder. The price of the new powder measure, with the desirable micrometer adjusting feature, lists at a surprisingly low price of $16.50.

Hollywood Gun Shop, 6032 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood 28, California, also announces production of the Owen Electronic Chronograph, listing at $97.50, less batteries. One of these chronographs has been received and we will report on results at a later date.—A.H.B.

BARREL INLETTING TOOLS

One of the most tedious and certainly the slowest job in fitting a stock to a rifle is the final smoothing and fitting in the barrel groove. For sometime now we have been using some well-designed barrel inletting rasps. M. M. Schmidt, Route 1, Box 150M, Escondido Canyon Road, Saugus, California,

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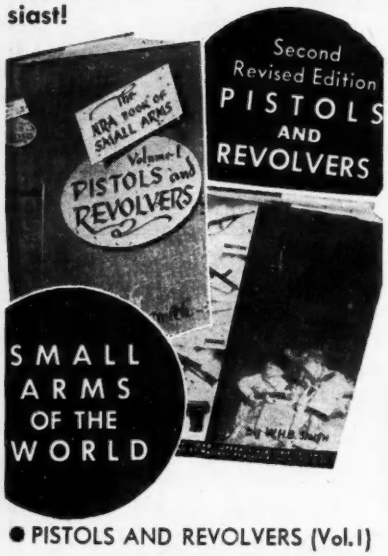

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Sport-Lore secured this device, developed a modern plastic replica of it, and tested it on many a field trip, successfully calling, spooking and stopping running deer. Since then thousands have been successfully used in every deer hunting section in the country. It has now been thoroughly tested by average hunters in all types of terrain and cover and their report is that it works; it will call a deer, spook it out of thick cover, or stop a running deer for a good shot. That means fewer cripples to wander off and perish later. That's good wildlife conservation.

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LENZBURG (SWITZERLAND)

some years ago designed a fast-cutting barrel inletting tool which he furnishes for different size barrel grooves. This cutter, in the form of hardened cutting discs separated by spacer washers, is adjustable for a fast or slow cut. We have had excellent results with the Schmidt tool.

Frank Mittermier, 3577 E. Tremont Ave., New York, N. Y., has a good one for the final finishing, as the short rasp-like teeth do not remove wood rapidly.

Another designed sometime ago is a barrel rasp with two handles made by Z. S. Denman, 423 W. 136th Street, Hawthorne, California. Recently a new sample was received with improved cutting edges. The new tool is really a dandy, as it cuts wood fast, but still gives a good, smooth finish.

From another source, L. N. Niccolls, 1698 River View Street, Eugene, Oregon, we obtained and are using a so-called "Curl Cut" tool. This tool has a disc-like single cutting edge, fitted to a bent handle. Merely by changing the angle of the handle, the barrel groove can be cut for a barrel from 5/8-inch to 1¼-inch diameter or larger. This tool removes wood in a hurry, but it leaves a nice smooth finish, especially when the wood is hard and dense. It does not work too well on soft, porous wood.

In fact, none of these tools give their best performance on really soft open-grain wood. Anyone working on gunstocks would have use for any and all of these tools, especially the Schmidt or those put out by Messrs. Denman and Niccolls.—A.H.B.

MORE ON IODINE BLUING

In connection with the subject of iodine bluing discussed in the September Dope Bag, the following may be of use:

Iodine crystals are not soluble in water to any appreciable extent, but they are soluble in concentrated potassium iodide solution. Angier's formula should be used by grinding the potassium iodide in a mortar with just enough water to dissolve it all. Then add the iodine and perhaps a little more (say three or four teaspoonfuls) water and grind in the iodine. After the iodine is in solution add the rest of the water. It would *not* be satisfactory to simply mix the ingredients mentioned in the formula all together; the iodine will dissolve only in strong potassium iodide solution, although it can later be diluted at will.—EDWIN C. PERKINS, New York City.

BOLT BENDING BLOCK

In the July Dope Bag a letter, with pictures, from Lester Womack was published under the heading "Don't Cut that Bolt Handle." Mr. Womack tells how to make bolt bending blocks. Blocks similar to the ones described by Womack are being manufactured by Maynard P. Buehler, 697 Vernon Street, Oakland 10, California. I recently used a set of them for bending the bolt on my Mauser. They simplified the job considerably and gave me much needed confidence. With the blocks, I could tell what I was doing. A metal plug comes with the block which conforms to the inside of the bolt sleeve to prevent it from being forced out of round.

One set of blocks will not do for all bolts. Sets are designed to handle bolts from two or three particular models. Retail price is $15.00 per set.—E.B.

SAECO MELTING FURNACE

Santa Anita Engineering Co., 2435 E. Colorado Street, Pasadena 8, California, has finished development of an oversized electric melting furnace. A very nice feature of this new melting pot is that the heat range is thermostatically controlled within a range of 450 to 850 degrees F. The heating unit draws 1,000 watts and the capacity is eleven pounds of lead. Voltage specifications of the furnace are 110 to 115 volts, either AC or DC current.

Before being marketed this melting furnace was put through long endurance tests, consisting of as many as 1,000 hours continuous operation. We have been using one

of these melting pots for sometime now, and we consider the heat control feature a decided improvement and convenience for casting bullets. The Saeco lists at $28.50, f.o.b. Pasadena. An ingot mold which casts four one-pound ingots is furnished with each melting pot.—A.H.B.

DENICKELING SOLUTION

Can you tell me how to remove nickel plating from a handgun? It is peeled off in spots and I would like to take it all off and reblue the gun. — J. H. MAGNUSON, Lafayette, Indiana.

Answer: The most practical method is to use a solution which will dissolve nickel and not affect iron or steel. R. H. Angier, in his book *Firearms Bluing and Browning*, gives the following: "Ammonium persulphate 10 g, ammonium carbonate 5 g, dissolved in 100 ccm. of ammonia, density 0.935." He also states "Ammonia, density 0.935 is obtained by diluting 63 ccm. of stronger ammonia to 100 ccm. using only distilled water for this purpose."

A close look at this formula shows that it is nothing more or less than another way of stating the Ordnance Dept. formula for metal fouling solution which was universally used for removing lumpy metal fouling from rifle barrels during the old days of the cupronickel jacket. The Ordnance formula is as follows:

"Ammonium Persulphate ..... 1 ounce
Ammonium Carbonate ..... 200 grains
Stronger Ammonia Water (28%) 6 ounces
Water ..... 4 ounces"

In using this formula, a new solution should be made fresh each time and care should be taken that the parts are completely immersed in the solution and not allowed to project into the air, as that will cause corrosion where the parts protrude.—J. S. H.

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A PAPER FOR PEOPLE WHO SHOOT

Rifle

VOL. 12, NO. 11 BRIDGEPORT, C NOVE

Camp Perry is a big place. And it's still a magic name to those of us who spend a large part of our leisure time trying to "squeeze" the little 22 bullet into the X ring.

This year the Ohio State Rifle Association obtained permission to use Camp Perry for its State Match. Because of the difficulty in obtaining sufficient personnel for a match of this size, they asked the shooters to handle the target detail. The first match was a little slow, but as soon as the shooters got used to the idea things went along in first class shape.

The shooters got a kick out of putting up and taking down their own targets, *and there were no complaints about wrinkles on the targets.* It gave them a chance to see how they did first hand, and it helped relieve the tension after the first stage by giving them something else to do. Those who attended will agree that it was a smooth-running, well managed shoot.

Like a powerful magnet, Camp Perry once again proved its traditional ability to attract rifle shooters. At the final tally there were 362 shooters.

* * *

A short while back we read a story that really impressed us, probably because many of us have, at one time or another, had the same experience and same trouble this shooter had. Here is his story:

"Our club fired the 45 Caliber qualification today and I finally made 'Marksman,' way down in the order, after unsuccessful tries for two years. I'm sure that I haven't improved one bit, but what helped was the realization that basically a rifle and a pistol are the same—a rifled tube tossing bullets at a target — and that the same fundamental rules should apply.

"So, when I remembered to tell myself to 'hold and squeeze,' the shots went on the paper and, as I was talking to myself most of the time, I qualified.

"When I learned to shoot a rifle, I remembered my instructor telling me that I'd never get anywhere until I stopped jerking the trigger, so I talked to myself then too, but pretty soon this squeezing became a habit and, as it is with most things that become habitual, I stopped thinking about it.

"That's probably the way it is with most of us, but I'm of the opinion that, because we don't think about squeezing or our position or the many other things we do habitually when we shoot, we get careless about them. So the next time you're wondering what's wrong with your score, get out your book, compare it with what you've been doing, do something about it and see the difference."

We are glad to see this shooter admit talking to himself. We've done it, and we believe many others have also. But the main thing to do when your scores go haywire is to check and double check everything. Then, as this shooter states, "Do something about it." You *will* see a difference.

* * *

Have you ever noticed how often the bulk of the planning and detail involved in running a rifle or pistol club is taken care of by one or two members? Many times we've seen these "unsung heroes" handling the club management single-handed.

Sure, everybody knows it's more fun to shoot, but you can get a lot of pleasure out of the other club functions too. A little work by each member will relieve the club's "live wire" from burdensome detail and permit him to devote more time to the advancement of new activities. Are you doing your part?

PISTOL SHOOTERS!

HERE'S THE NEW REMINGTON "TARGETMASTER" 45 Wad Cutter

Improved Accuracy
Balanced Recoil
Reliable Functioning
Punches Full Size Holes in Target
Clean to Handle

This sensational new 45 match cartridge is designed for peak accuracy at all pistol shooting ranges. Here, for the first time, is a factory load that functions reliably — plus the balanced recoil necessary for time and rapid firing stages of today's match competition. And it punches full 45 caliber holes in target paper — makes the target easier to spot, faster to score.

The proof of any cartridge is in the shooting. So try a box next time you step up to the firing line. The first time you shoot with this clean, superbly accurate ammunition, you'll know the superiority of the new Remington "Targetmaster" 45 Wad Cutter. It's ready now to help you improve scores and take the guesswork out of scoring.

OUTSN
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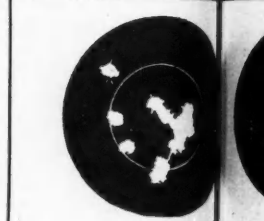
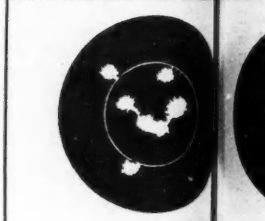
MODE37



GROUP #1
10-SHOT GROU 10



GROUP #6
10-SHOT GROU 10-

Perfect te f M
ammo h lers

Your chances are t bet f boost your scores with positio 37 "Rangemaster" bec And fo a real precision inst ," sho Every part is desig mingto built for consistent, anbore accuracy in match com master. The specially rifled accur barrel — heavy — se ensive ing — double counter ent pa muzzle — is unexcelled re. Rem "Miracle Trigger" is t rts are clean, crisp let-off, reche creep or backlash. It the fine

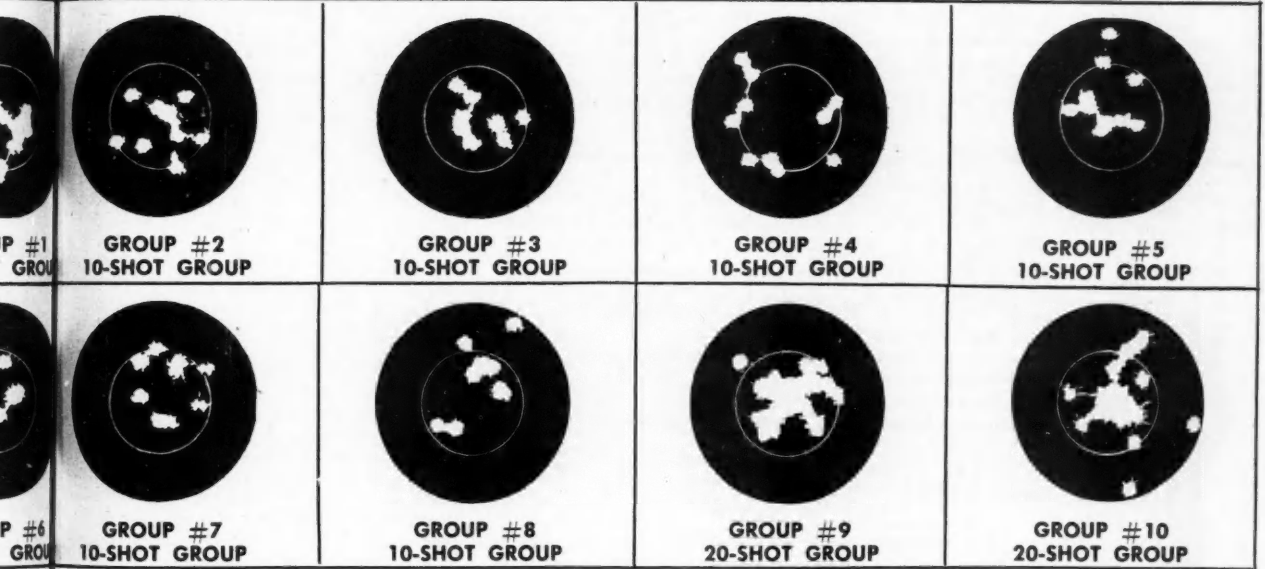
"Targetmaster," "Rangemaster," mbore" ar

Remington News

EPORT, NOVEMBER, 1949

WEATHER:
Cool enough to begin a hot indoor season

TSNDING CONSECUTIVE GROUPS SIT FROM SHOULDER WITH DE37 AND "PALMA KLEANBORE"



P #1 GROU — GROUP #2 10-SHOT GROUP — GROUP #3 10-SHOT GROUP — GROUP #4 10-SHOT GROUP — GROUP #5 10-SHOT GROUP

P #6 GROU — GROUP #7 10-SHOT GROUP — GROUP #8 10-SHOT GROUP — GROUP #9 20-SHOT GROUP — GROUP #10 20-SHOT GROUP

t test of Model 37 and Remington Match o holders fire consistently tight groups

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6 10X POSSIBLES— 3 20X POSSIBLES— IN ONE EVENING!

These 10 consecutive 100-yard groups, shown above at approximately one-third actual size, were fired in one mid-summer evening by a shooter practicing for one of the 1949 Regional matches. They were shot *from the shoulder in the prone position* with a Remington Model 37 rifle and Remington "Palma Kleanbore" ammunition. The first eight groups are 10-shot groups. Groups #9 and #10 are 20-shot groups.

The shooter sighted in only three times for the ten groups—a truly outstanding piece of shooting . . . and a graphic tribute to the consistently fine accuracy of "Palma Kleanbore" match ammunition and the Model 37.

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THE NEW HOLLYWOOD MICROMETER POWDER MEASURE

The first Powder Measure with adjustable precision readings.

As accurate as a powder measure can be made, with the advantage of when once the load is determined, readings can be recorded for future use.

The micrometer settings can be used for unlimited times and will always duplicate settings.

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Will throw precision charges from 2½ grains of Bullseye to 93 grains of #4350 powder.

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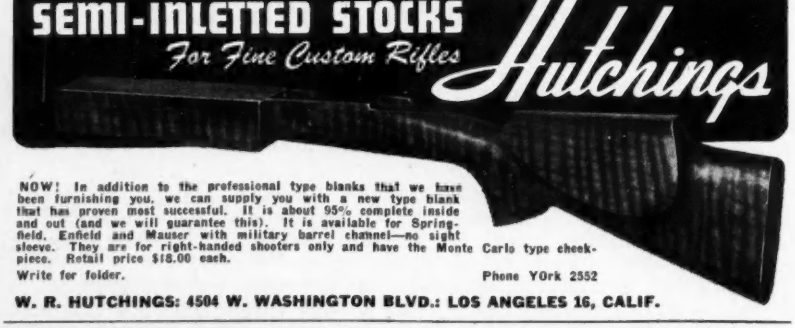

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WATER FOR GUN CLEANING

In past issues of the RIFLEMAN I have noted several articles on cleaning guns and getting them to stay that way, an important matter to any gun crank. One article deals with silica gel, which is undoubtedly effective but a lot of trouble. It is worth the trouble, of course, but there is one stunt in gun cleaning that has never gotten the emphasis it deserves. I refer to boiling water.

Ever have a barrel go on rusting in spite of everything you could do? Most of us have. Ever clean and clean, and give it the brass brush, and still have the surface of the barrel show those telltale raised spots?

When that happens, give it the boiling water treatment. If it is a bolt gun or a shotgun put the muzzle in a pot of boiling water on the stove and pump the water up and down with a rag on a rod. If it's a lever gun, make yourself a doodad by taking an empty case and soldering a funnel on it at an angle so you can stick it in the chamber, with the funnel sticking out of the top of the gun, and add more water. Be sure it is boiling; 212 degrees is not too much.

You will find there are times when you know that the barrel is rusting by the spots in it, yet when you rub it with an oiled rag not much comes off. At such a time, pour boiling water through it, then put through a rag and you will find it loaded with rust.

Rust seems to me to be a fungus, which must be burned out or torn out by the roots. A brass brush will sometimes tear it out, but water will kill it.

I have a Lefever double shotgun with two sets of barrels and all four started to rust during the summer and kept on rusting, until I gave them the hot water treatment, then they stopped. Silica gel cosmoline, barrel wicks, etc., are not necessary. Kill that rust, and it will stay killed. Just a light oil will protect that barrel for a long time.

Ever notice that a bullet mold is not much inclined to rust? It gets lots of heat. You don't have to pack grease in it, or rub it out. Often shooters don't even oil a mold. Just lay them away and they will stay for weeks and months. The rust has been killed, and it does not start up again easily.

When in the National Guard I quickly noticed how easy it was to clean the barrel of my machine gun and keep it clean. After firing, when the barrel was still hot, I cleaned with the boiling water from the jacket and it was clean to stay, with a light oil. I could look at that barrel the next time I went to drill and it was always OK.

There was a reason, *boiling water*. Try it, brother gun cranks!—W. R. KAUFMAN, Evanston, Ill.

ODD PISTOL

The puzzling pistol illustrated in the July 1949 Dope Bag looks very similar to the one owned by Bert K. Todd, as shown in June 1947 Dope Bag, page 47. Sorry I can't give any helpful information on them but it seems there may be two of the "critters" in circulation. No, it wasn't a good memory that caused me to notice this, it was just the fact that I enjoy re-reading the old issues. Thanks for a great magazine.—DICK BARKER, Wamego, Kansas.

Answer: Wow! That was one right below the belt! We certainly give you credit for being more alert than we were because we had forgotten that old 1947 picture. Thanks a million.—J. S. H.

.256 NEWTON

I have a chance to buy a Buffalo Newton in .256 Newton caliber very cheap, but where can I obtain bullets to use in it? Is it possible to use .257-caliber bullets put through a sizing die, or is some firm still making a .256 slug?—J. R. McMillen, Chicago, Ill.

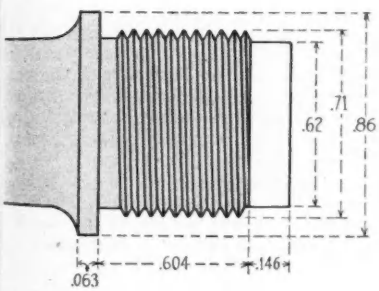
Answer: Before buying the .256 Newton, remember that you will have to load *all* the ammunition for it. Also, cases will probably have to be made by necking down .30-'06 cases.

You would not reduce the diameter of the .257 bullet, which is really a .25 and already too small for the .256. There are several sources, such as Modern Gun Shop, Box 39, Hollydale, Calif.; Vernon D. Speer, 1522 "G" St., Lewiston, Idaho; and several others, for 6.5-mm bullets, which are the correct diameter of your .256 Newton. In other words, the barrel is .256-inch (or 6.5 mm.) bore diameter but .263 groove diameter or bullet diameter.—A. H. B.

LUGER BARREL THREADS

I note that some company states that discarded Springfield and Enfield .30-caliber barrels make good .30-caliber Luger barrels. But such U. S. barrels are about .308 to .309 inch and Luger barrels are about .311. How about this?—Elvin W. Henninger, Dubois, Idaho.

Answer: Excellent .30-caliber Luger barrels can be made from .30-caliber Springfield or Enfield barrels. The bore of the Springfield is .300 to .301 inch with rifling .308 to .309. The pitch is one turn in ten inches. For the .30-caliber Luger the standard diameter of bore is .301 and grooves .309 with rifling one



turn in 9.84 inches. The breech ends of the Luger barrels, both .30 caliber and 9 mm., are threaded with V-threads, twenty threads to the inch right-handed.

For other dimensions of the breech end of the .30-caliber and 9-mm. Luger barrels see the accompanying sketch.—J.S.H.

HOLDER FOR POWDER CAN

Most everyone who handloads has found that more accurate powder charges can be thrown when a uniform powder level in the powder measure is maintained. The one exception is the Belding & Mull, which has a separate visible chamber. Now there is a simple way to maintain this constant powder level. Mr. Henry W. Lachmiller, 1830 Phillips Way, Los Angeles 42, California, has a patented "Level Clip" which holds a can of powder upside down on top of the powder measure. This simple clip is a practical idea which we can recommend.—A.H.B.

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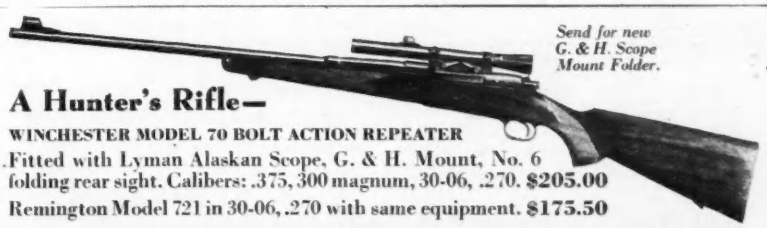

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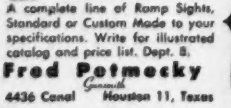

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Willson Products, Inc., Reading, Pennsylvania, have new shooting glasses with yellow lenses, which they are selling not as sun glasses, but for use on dark cloudy days, night driving, etc.

Some of the older shooters will no doubt remember when shooters first started going in for the large lens shooting glasses of, I believe, King manufacture. These first glasses were fitted with the yellow lenses, but green lenses soon replaced the yellow for use in the sun.

I have been using a pair of Willson glasses for night skeet shooting. They have helped in spotting clay birds quickly under night conditions. The yellow glass eliminates the blue, violet, and ultraviolet regions of the spectrum and increases visual acuity, thus making it possible to distinguish finer details under poor lighting.—E. B.

.218 BEE LOADS

In the October 1949 issue of THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN, page 43, we indicated that we had developed loads for the Bee up to fifteen grains of DuPont No. 4227 with 45-grain Sierra bullets. The loads reported were used in two different model 43 Winchester rifles and there was no trouble with them at all. Now loading data for the .218 Bee has been received from Philip B. Sharpe, Fairfield, Penn., indicating that in some rifles our loads might be excessive. From the information there is reason to believe that the loads we used developed over 50,000 pounds pressure.

The following loads have been worked up by the Winchester Repeating Arms Co., and they are considered maximum for the .218 Bee cartridge:

Bullet	*Powder*	*Muz.Vel.*
40-gr. Speer	12.3 grs. No. 2400	2930 f.s.
40-gr. Sierra	12.3 grs. No. 2400	2900 f.s.
40-gr. Speer	13.4 grs. No. 4227	2960 f.s.
40-gr. Sierra	13.4 grs. No. 4227	2950 f.s.
45-gr. Speer	12.0 grs. No. 2400	2800 f.s.
45-gr. Sierra	12.0 grs. No. 2400	2775 f.s.
45-gr. Speer	12.8 grs. No. 4227	2790 f.s.
45-gr. Sierra	12.8 grs. No. 4227	2775 f.s.
50-gr. Speer	11.8 grs. No. 2400	2725 f.s.
50-gr. Sierra	11.8 grs. No. 2400	2710 f.s.
50-gr. Speer	12.4 grs. No. 4227	2665 f.s.
50-gr. Sierra	12.4 grs. No. 4227	2675 f.s.
55-gr. Speer	11.5 grs. No. 2400	2600 f.s.
55-gr. Sierra	11.5 grs. No. 2400	2600 f.s.
55-gr. Speer	12.0 grs. No. 4227	2550 f.s.
55-gr. Sierra	12.0 grs. No. 4227	2550 f.s.

The model 43 Winchester is a fine little rifle if used with proper loads but we have had reports that slightly heavy loads may cause the bolt to lock. If any such difficulty with the bolt on the model 43 Winchester is encountered, it is a definite indication that the loads should be reduced.—A.H.B.

.280 ROSS BULLETS

In the past few months two articles mentioned the use of .280 Ross in both Africa and India. Both wrote of a 140-grain bullet. This was a Kynoch loading and the last ballistics I saw gave it 2900 f.s. This was a cannelured hollow copper-point bullet with a six-caliber ogive and a length of 1.7 inches. For the records it should be known that all bullets made by Ross Rifle Co. for the .280 were steel jacketed. The bullet which appeared in 1910 was a 145-grain ex-

panding, pointed hollow point, with an eight-caliber ogive and a length of 1.243 inches. The copper tube was introduced in 1913 in a bullet having a length of 1.260 inches and an eight-caliber ogive. When it became apparent that the Ross was going to be used on thick-skinned and dangerous game, a thick steel-jacketed hollow-point bullet of 160 grains was made. Ogive was eight caliber, but because of the jacket thickness and the hollow point, making for a rather blunt point, it appears less. Length of this bullet is unknown, as I have only original cartridges. The initial velocity with No. 10 powder was 2900 f.s.

Kynoch also made a thick-jacketed hollow point of 160 grains, the ogive being really a taper from body to very blunt point; it is cannelured, with a length of 1.153 inches. Reports from users of the 160-grain Ross from both Africa and India years ago were very favorable.—HERBERT COX, Wilmington, Del.

LOAD FOR .50-CALIBER MUZZLE LOADER

I have a .500 muzzle-loading black powder rifle which had been laid aside as scrap iron until, during World War II, I dug it out from under the surface of the earth, registered it, reconditioned the stock, took all the rust out and reblued it. It is now a very fine .500 bore rifle, with fine engraving and decoration, for percussion caps, weighing approximately 9½ pounds. I would like to shoot it as a fancy and allow jungle hunters, who still use muzzle-loading shotguns, to shoot it sometimes. Not wanting to use the local black powder, I would like to know how much American black powder, such as DuPont, I should use with this gun.—S. PANCHARATANA, Bangkok, Siam.

Answer: Major Ned H. Roberts, in his book on the muzzle-loading cap-lock rifle, gives the following old-time rule for black powder loads with round balls: "Use three grains weight of powder for each seven grains weight of the ball. So if the .31-caliber round ball weighed 60 grains it would take 25 grains of powder. The .36-caliber round ball weighing 90 grains, would take 38½ grains of powder. The .44-caliber round ball weighing 118 grains, would take 50 grains of powder and the .50-caliber round ball weighing 198 grains would take 85 grains of black powder."—J. S. H.

.220 SWIFT AND .257 ROBERTS

I have a .257 Roberts built on a Mauser action with 24-inch Buhmiller barrel of 12-inch twist. Performance on game is not satisfactory, except with 120-grain Speer bullet, and that bullet does not shoot quite as accurately as I think it should. It gives about 3-inch groups at 100 yards when loaded with 45 grains of No. 4350 powder.

I am thinking about having the rifle rechambered to the Ackley .25-'06, in the hope that the added velocity will stabilize the bullet better, and also give better results with the 100-grain bullets. What do you think about this? The barrel is not light, being 11/16 inch at the muzzle.

So far I have been much better satisfied with the Swift on deer and antelope. It is easier to hit where I want to with it and gives more penetration, except when using the 120-grain bullet in the Roberts.—HENRY R. STOLE, Livingston, Montana.

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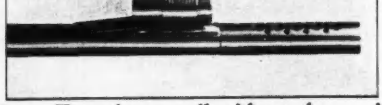

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bering job, there is little chance that rechambering your rifle to .25-'06 will improve accuracy. In fact, you will have to use exceptionally good bullets at the higher velocity to get good accuracy in a very good rifle, or at least we have found that to be true. In other words you should be able to get decent accuracy in your .257 with readily available components more easily than in the .25-'06. The 12-inch twist should stablize anything up to and including 100-grain bullets, and it is surprising that your best performance is with the 120 grain, which should not work in the slower twist. I use a 12-inch twist in the .257 Roberts and in the Magnums. It will not stabilize the 125-grain Barnes bullets, but it will stabilize the 117-grain Remington Core-Lokt with its blunt-nose design.

There is a good reason why you find your Swift more accurate than the .257 Roberts. Except in isolated cases, never have the .25 and larger calibers given the same kind of tight groups as are obtained regularly in .22 caliber. It is true the .257 Roberts is not the most flexible case in the world, but the .220 Swift has that same reputation also. It is my guess that you have an unusual Swift and a rather average or poor .257 Roberts.

RING IN BARREL

While firing my new Savage model 23D Hornet rifle I pulled the trigger but heard no report—only a hissing noise. Upon examination I discovered that the bullet had traveled about 2½ inches through the barrel. Apparently there had been no powder charge in the cartridge.

I drove the bullet back down the barrel with a cleaning rod and examined the barrel. At the point where the bullet had been is a narrow ring cut around the inside of the barrel. While this ring will detract from the value of this rifle, I would like to know if it will have any effect upon its accuracy. I will appreciate any suggestions or information from you.—HERBERT W. ZELL, Chicago, Ill.

Answer: Only a test can show what effect that ring in the barrel will have on accuracy of the rifle. You know what accuracy it had before so shoot it now with the same ammunition for comparison and you will have the answer. There is a fair chance that ring was already in the barrel, as I can see no possible connection between what happened and the apparent ring in the barrel unless you made that ring by using an improperly fitting rod when driving the bullet out. That is a possibility, as probably the bullet was hard to start back on its way and as I assume you were driving on the rod it could have damaged the bore. However, if the damage is only slight, a little lapping would probably result in the barrel being as good as new. In fact, it may be now. Undoubtedly, there was no powder in that case, as the primer alone could start the bullet.—A. H. B.

CONVERTING THE M92 WINCHESTER

I have a Winchester M92 lever-action .25-20 which I find does not have enough range for the type of shooting for which I use it. Using the same barrel, can the gun be chambered for some cartridge with a more desirable trajectory, or are the actions too weak

to handle any of the various newer wildcats?—DONALD ANDERSON, Chicago, Illinois.

Answer: The action of any M92 Winchester is too short to handle any of the newer cartridges. The M92 is an old gun made to handle the .25-20, .32-20, .38-40 or .44-40 cartridges, all of which are quite short. In fact, the cartridges are all used in pistols as well as in rifles. The action simply does not have enough length to handle a higher-powered cartridge.—J.S.H.

HEAVY BULLETS IN 8x56 MM.

I have recently acquired an 8x56-mm. Mannlicher-Schoenauer rifle which appears to be exceptionally well made. There is only one domestic cartridge listed for it at this time, the Western 200-grain soft point. Comparison shows that the ballistics of the load and the 200-grain .35 Remington load are almost identical at the muzzle. I am wondering if the 8x56 cannot be reloaded for considerably improved velocity, as the action (which is a prewar commercial sporter) appears to be considerably stronger than the .35 Remington slide action.

I have been unable to get much information from American books as to the relative strength of the model 1908 Mannlicher-Schoenauer action in comparison with the model 98 Mauser. Could you give me a comparison on them assuming that both actions were of good prewar commercial manufacture? Also could you recommend reloads that would give velocity of about 2500 foot-seconds in this caliber?—ERIC TINSLEY, Louisville, Ky.

Answer: The 8-mm. Mannlicher-Schoenauer cannot be loaded to much higher velocity using a 200-grain bullet because a 200-grain bullet in 8-mm. caliber will develop higher pressure than a 200-grain bullet will in the larger bore of the .35 Remington, where there is a larger area for the powder to push against. For example, with a 200-grain bullet the accepted velocity in the Mannlicher-Schoenauer is 2150 foot-seconds, and the acceptable pressure tolerances are 46,000 to 50,000 pounds, which is near maximum for a bolt-action rifle. By comparison, the 200-grain bullet in the .35 Remington is listed at 2180 foot-seconds velocity and the pressure level is 35,000 to 39,000 pounds. You can see, therefore, that if the velocity for the 200-grain 8-mm. bullet were increased, pressure would go above maximum accepted safe tolerances.—A. H. B.

LOADS FOR THE .45-70

Recently I have acquired an old single-shot breech-loading rifle. It is a Springfield Model 1873. The groove diameter as near as I can tell is .454. What is the caliber? What should I handload the cartridge with and where can I get cases. — DAVID M. GRAVES, Williamston, Michigan.

Answer: Your old Model 1873 Springfield was made to handle the .45-70 black powder cartridge. In other words, one of .45 caliber with a charge of 70 grains black powder and the 405- or 500-grain bullet. For handloading, I would recommend the Ideal or some other lead bullet weighing 300 to 405 grains, and with either bullet weight I would use around 20 grains of No. 4759 powder. I had good luck with 23 to 25 grains of the same powder with 300-grain lead bullets. You will, of course, have to buy .45-70 ammunition of standard velocity, which is sold commercially, and fire the loads to get cases for reloading purposes.—A. H. B.

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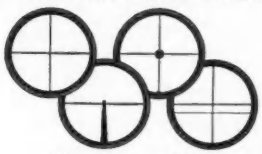

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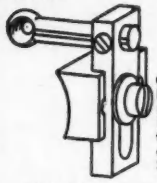

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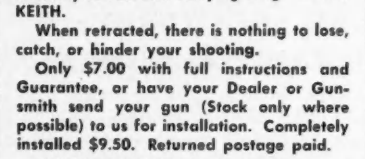

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NEW PRODUCTS

Drill jig for Weaver detachable top mount bases is now available from Claude E. Roderich, 110 Second Street, Monett, Missouri. He formerly announced the telescope mount base drill jig with center distances of six inches and 7.2 inches. The jig makes hole alignment a simple matter. No price information is available yet but this special-purpose jig will undoubtedly be much less than the big multipurpose type.

Light recoil pads, known as the White Line Jr. Deluxe, are now being manufactured by the Mershon Company, Inc., 511 East Broadway, Glendale 5, California. These pads are about 5/8 inch thick. We find them ideal for use on rifles as well as for shotguns. They come in two sizes and in three different colors—black, red and brown. Retail price, $2.50.

Portable hunter's blind bearing the trade name Porta-Blind, with all accessories, has just about everything but running water. It makes up into a compact package. The blind without heater is sold by the Porta Blind Co., 2128 E. Wealthy Street, East Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Plastic inlays cut from red, black, or white plastic are made in various geometric designs, and are priced from 25¢ to $1.00. They are turned out by C. D. Cahoon, II North Stone Road, Swampscott, Massachusetts.

Shot-shell carrier box by the Alden Sporting Equipment Co., 12011 S. Union Blvd., Chicago 20, Illinois, is of metal construction with an attractive brown crinkle finish. The box is strong and divided into four compartments, each large enough to receive a box of 12-gauge shells—a particularly handy thing for skeet and trap tournament shooters. Retail price is $3.25.

Safety housing which fits over the trigger guard of a rifle to prevent the trigger being pulled, and which locks with a key, is available from the H. M. Sheer Co., Quincy, Illinois. This device is the same type as the Nimco which was previously advertised.

Gun racks in five-gun or one-gun style for vertical racking of guns are being produced by the Nimrod Company, 1701 Arch Street, Philadelphia 3, Pa., manufacturers of the "Pequot" self-leveling horizontal rack. The gun barrel goes through a shaped hole at the top of the rack so that the guns cannot tip forward. Beautifully cut and finished out of solid walnut, both the five-gun and one-gun racks are designed for fitting to the wall. However, the five-gun rack comes with forward legs that can be screwed on to make a sturdy floor rack out of it. The only possible criticism we might have of the five-gun rack is that a high-mounted scope, such as you might find on a foreign rifle, would touch the wall when the rack is wall mounted, but the high-mounted scope can be taken care of by putting small blocks between the rack and the wall. The racks are worth the price: $19.50 for the five-gun rack; $5.50 for the one-gun rack.

Clipmaster Loader, sold for $1.00 by Dewitt Inglis, 5827 N. Kostner Ave., Chicago 30, Ill., gives a good comfortable grip for pressing down the loading button on Woodsman and Hi-Standard .22's.

Repeating air pistol made by the Hy-Score Arms Corp., Brooklyn, New York, is designed to be loaded with six pellets at a time. The pistol must be broken between shots, which cocks a powerful spring, and when the trigger is pulled a piston driven by the spring builds up pressure behind the pellet to send it on its way down the rifled barrel.

The repeating Hy-Score is available in .177, .22 or BB-caliber.

"Windicator" is an interesting gadget being marketed by E. S. Ritchie & Sons, Inc., 112 Cypress Street, Brookline 46, Massachusetts. Fitted compactly into a small black plastic case only 1½ inches in diameter and 2¼ inches high, it is a wind direction indicator, a wind velocity gauge, and a magnetic compass. The three are mounted on a screw-on lid which is threaded top and bottom. With the lid turned down all parts are in the case and well protected. Unscrew the lid, turn it over, and readings can be taken.

The Windicator is not entirely new. A similar device was sold by the General Communication Company before the war. The new Windicator is much like the old one with only minor changes. It is made in two models, Model A-5-30 MPH and Model B-10-60 MPH. List price is $8.75.

Shooter's utility case is a 15- x 12- x 6-inch case made of one-fourth inch plywood with brass-plated corners, hinges, snap lock, key and a sturdy plastic luggage handle fastened on top. Available in five colors—maple, red, blue, black or green—the case is suitable for carrying pistols, telescopes, binoculars, boxed ammunition, repair and cleaning kits.

This highly attractive item is obtainable from Shel-Art Company, 735 Mace Ave., Bronx 67, N. Y., for $5.00. It seems an excellent value.

Martin Instrument Co., Easley, South Carolina, has for the past three years offered a fairly complete repair service on binoculars, telescopes, microscopes and ophthalmis instruments. Much of their work is done for dealers and distributors, particularly in the Southeastern states. The company is owned by Major Robert H. Martin, Ordnance Reserve, who has had nine years experience as an instrument maker and repairman and who, during the last war, operated an Ordnance base instrument repair shop.

Portable steel target frame that can be carried easily in a car and stuck into the ground for use in sighting-in is available from Lee Smag, 756 Douglas Street, N.W., Grand Rapids, Michigan. The list price of it is $3.50. Called Lee's Target Holder it is channeled for a piece of cardboard and a single official 100-yard target that can be slid into the frame from the top. There is a pointed bar that slides out of the frame for use in setting the unit up.

Hanson's Custom Loading, Bonner Springs, Kansas, can supply collapsible cartridge boxes such as those he uses for shipping custom loads. These small boxes will hold ten regular rifle cartridges, and are available only in 1,000 lots at $27 per thousand. Suitable labels for identifying the loads are available at $15 per thousand.

O. F. Mossberg & Sons Inc., New Haven, Connecticut, informs us that all lens surfaces in Mossberg rifle telescope sights are now being hard coated with "Somcote." This is a specially developed lens coating which increases the light transmission in the scope

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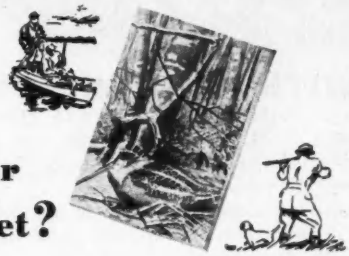

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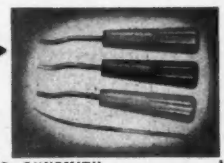

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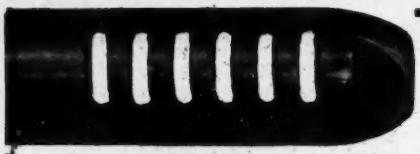

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approximately 34 percent and thus gives greater clarity and sharpness to the image.

Mossberg four-power scopes are a good value for the price of $9.35 for the person who wants a satisfactory and effective telescope sight at the lowest possible price. They are just the thing for use on an inexpensive .22-caliber rifle for which a more costly sight would hardly be justified.

Philip Jay Medicus, 18 Fletcher Street, New York 7, N. Y., has just issued catalog No. 2 covering cartridges for collectors, shooters and dealers. Priced at 35 cents, it contains six pages of excellent illustrations, an excellent article ("How to Collect Cartridges"), a list of manufacturer's head stamps, and much other information, besides the forty-two pages of cartridges and prices. Even if you don't need this book as a catalog, it is a fine reference on cartridges and cartridge collecting.

L. L. Bean, Freeport, Maine, has just issued his fall catalog of hunting and camping supplies. As usual, it makes interesting reading and contains items that are hard to find elsewhere.

RCBS Company, 1365-7th Ave., Oroville, California, now makes an excellent lead extruder to go along with the RCBS bulletmaking dies and lead core swages. The latest design of core extruder works very well, assuring positive core weight control, and can be used in the Pacific tool, as can RCBS dies and core seaters.

The lead extruder makes cores a close fit inside .22-caliber jacket material, but it will also make uniform cores which may be swaged out in .25-caliber jackets when the core seater is used. All RCBS tools which we have used give satisfactory results.

W. S. Vickerman, 208 S. Ruby Street, Ellensburg, Wash., has a rather interesting bullet seater available in .22, .25, .270 and .30 calibers. The special bullet seater fits in the Pacific or any other tool having standard ⅞-inch fourteen threads, and is quite practical, especially when a complete set of loading dies is not available. With a seater for each caliber and seven economical extensions at 80 cents each, bullets can be seated in most any cartridge. We find the .22-caliber size particularly useful when handloading for wildcats. The same bullet seater may be used for any of them in .22 caliber so long as you have the correct extension case holders.

High Standard Manufacturing Corporation, Hamden, Connecticut, has under consideration production of a pistol for the .22-short cartridges for the Olympic and International revolver courses, which requires an automatic with a fast action and practically no whip to the barrel.

A tool-room sample of the new gun was shown by the High Standard representatives at the National Pistol Matches at Ft. Sheridan, Ill., and was used by a number of competitors in the International Match Tryouts.

A quick action with certainty of operation has been accomplished by making the slide of aluminum alloy, and by using a curved magazine in which the .22 shorts function without difficulty.

Everyone who tried the new pistol at Ft. Sheridan was enthusiastic about it. The NRA ordered six of these guns which the corporation made up on special order and by tool-room methods for use by the International Team at Buenos Aires.

If this gun proves as popular as the present reaction indicates, the firm plans to make it as a production model.

Stoeger Arms Corporation, 507 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York, has just issued their catalog No. 41, the 1950 edition of their well-known 'Shooter's Bible'. The new volume of 544 pages has been reduced to $1.00 plus 25¢ for mailing, and contains a world of useful information. We recommend it highly as a reference on nearly every subject connected with guns and ammunition.

DeWitt C. Winfield, 235 Wales Ave., River Edge, New Jersey, has a patented checkering tool which works exceptionally well, even for the amateur. It is a short-handled affair having one cutting edge, but in addition it has a smooth knife-edge guide for following the previously cut groove. The guide is held down against the work by a small coil spring. The checkering tool works so well that it gives an amateur confidence after only a few minutes use. The final clean-up work, after starting the checkering, is done with a three-corner Swiss file. The tool is a little similar to one illustrated on page 45 of *Modern Gunsmithing* by Clyde Baker, however Mr. Winfield has obtained a patent on his checkering tool.

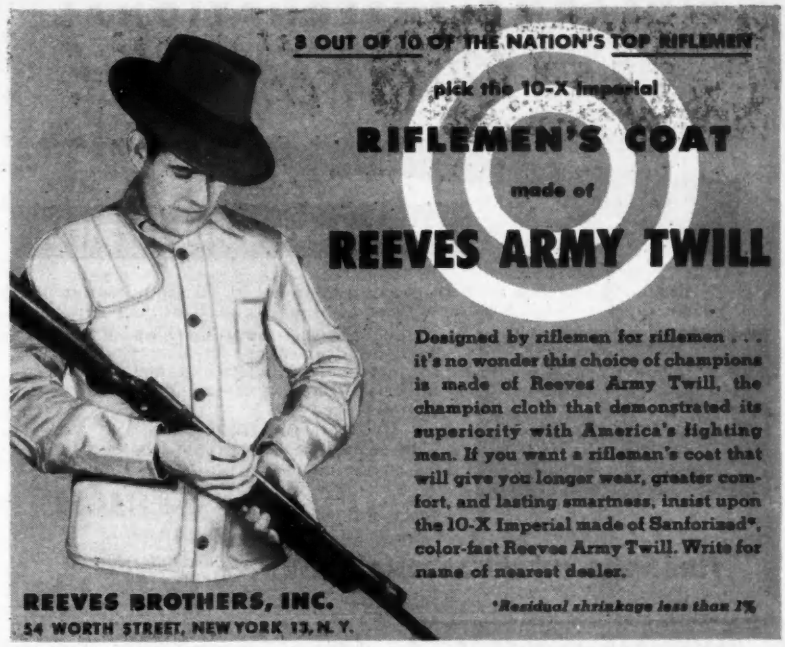
H. G. Young, of the House of Guns, Morris Plains, New Jersey, now on a gun buying trip in England and the Continent, has just purchased the Major Brown collection of antique firearms. This collection, which contains so many items that cataloging it would be a year's work, will probably be offered at auction in the spring of 1950.

High-Precision Bullets, Orange City, Iowa, is producing excellent soft-point bullets in a number of different calibers. We have tried the 130-grain weight in .270 caliber, and in .30 caliber we have used the 125-, 150-, and 180-grain bullets. Only the 125-grain bullet is a hollow point. Other bullets tried are 236-grain soft points in 8-mm. caliber; another is a so-called .31 caliber of 150 grains, measuring .3115-inch diameter for use in the 7.7-mm Jap rifle. All of these bullets have been found very accurate. In 8-mm caliber with the 236-grain bullet, we found 44.5 grains of No. 4895, lot 27277, an excellent load in a light hunting rifle. In 7-7-mm. caliber our best load was 47.5 grains of 4895 with the 150-grain bullet.

L. H. Brown, Route 2B, Kalispell, Mont., who specializes in building bull pup rifles, recently did a very satisfactory and close-fitting chambering job for us by converting a standard '17 Enfield to handle the Improved Ackley .30-'06 cartridge. Brown builds excellent stocks for bull pup rifles and makes his own mounts for the high-mounted scopes necessary on that type of rifle, and he also builds special trigger mechanisms.

Weatherby's Custom Sporting Goods, 8823 Long Beach Boulevard, South Gate, Calif., announces that their attractive sporting rifles are now available with the inside of the barrel chrome-plated in an effort to give longer barrel life and to cut down on metal fouling. We have tried one of these fine rifles in .270 caliber, and it shot exceptionally well. There was no sign of metal fouling with heavy loads. Indications are that longer barrel life is provided with chrome-plating, but time alone will tell just how much longer barrel life can be expected.

Chrome-plated barrels are furnished only on completed Weatherby rifles, which are available in standard .220 Swift, .257 Roberts,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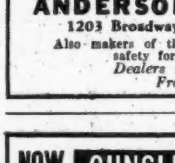

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.270 Winchester, and .30-'06 calibers. In addition, they may be had for all Weatherby Magnums, up to and including the .375 H&H Weatherby Magnum.

The Weatherby sporter which we used showed excellent workmanship from the metal work to the nicely finished, well-proportioned stock. These deluxe rifles are built around the FN Mauser action and all actions are equipped with a Mashburn Superior trigger. Without sights, the rifles list at $175.00. Prices are slightly higher when ordered in the Weatherby Magnum calibers.

Original Sight-Exchange, Paoli, Penna., now offers a moderate-priced simple spotting scope stand for $10.00. It is their Model O.S.E., which is almost identical to the discontinued Al Freeland Model D and also the Argus spotting scope stand no longer available. A simple but sturdy stand, it is complete with worm-drive scope clamp rings, covered with Neoprene rubber. The rings are available in three sizes (in a correct size for small, medium and large scopes) at 85¢ each.

J. W. McPhillips, 285 Mastick, San Bruno, California, custom loader, can now furnish loads for the Miser Magnum (.30-'06 Ackley Improved) cartridge, as well as the 8.15 x 46-mm. and the 7.65-mm. Mauser. Also available from him are loads for the 6-mm. Lee Navy which use the .220 case.

BOOK REVIEWS

KARAMOJO SAFARI

By W. D. M. Bell

In my library I am lucky to own and to have studied most of the good books on exploration, hunting and wild Africa, and from the viewpoint of red-blooded men, this last work of Bell's is the best. It is more truthfully descriptive of wild Africa, its game and its primitive natives, and of the thoughts and doings of a hunter rifleman on his own.

Bell was a professional elephant hunter, perhaps the most successful and celebrated of all, credited with over a thousand elephants to his own rifle. He hunted when Africa was unspoiled and he hunted alone, the first and only white man. "It was the advent of the modern rifle that made this possible. Smokeless powder, magazine fire and above all the solid nickel-covered bullet . . . ." With such a rifle, but not with the black powder forerunners, one man could kill an elephant instantly, could kill animals for his own food and leather and to buy the services of natives where before safaris had to command services and food at gun point with inevitable war and slavery because they could not carry enough trade goods. As Bell did it the natives got the meat and he got the ivory, and everyone was satisfied.

In *Karamojo Safari* Bell describes a year's trip into the then little known country west of Lake Rudolph, resulting in three hundred and fifty-four tusks, average weight 51 pounds. Total expenditure for outfit, wages and supplies, £3,000. Ivory sold for £9,000. Profit £6,000 or say $29,000. "A lovely camp, sweet water, good game lands, a good rifle, faithful followers, no contact whatever with the outside world, and not even a native African village within one hundred miles. What other paradise could a hunter ask for?"

Bell was one of the very few riflemen, from the American standpoint, who have hunted in Africa, and whose writings on armament make any sense whatever from either a practical or scientific point of view. He not only knew his rifles but he used them with a skill that no other African hunter, unless it be our Stewart Edward White, has ever begun to approach. Bell was the greatest exponent of the brain shot on elephant, using successfully the 7-mm. Mauser, .303 Lee Enfield, and .319 Westley Richards Mauser, all with 'solid' full-jacketed bullets. Most hunters never attempt the brain except from squarely to one side, but Bell so successfully pulled it off from most any direction and angle that he never records having been in a tight place.

His description of the game and the 'unspoiled' natives is true even to the extent of being alarmingly candid. "Imagine an immense field of five-foot high grass, bashed and blasted in every direction to the horizon; great patches torn off short by some gigantic grazing; branches leaning drunkenly in every direction; whole sectors trampled flat; pyramids of dung humming with insect life; and permeating everywhere, the strong and delicious odor of elephant."

If your primitive virtues of courage, energy and love of adventure have not been sapped by an effete civilization, if your love of the rifle would lead you into forests, mountains and deserts untenanted by man, then you positively should not miss *Karamojo Safari.* —COLONEL TOWNSEND WHELEN.

(Published by Harcourt, Brace & Co., New York, 1949. 298 pages. Price $3.75. Available through NRA Book Service.)

☆ ☆ ☆

THE VOICE OF THE COYOTE

By J. Frank Dobie

The coyote—the great American underdog—seems to be coming into his own. Hated by cattlemen, lied about, and exterminated by the government (two million have already been killed) he has needed a champion to set the record straight. Dobie comes to his defense in a swell book.

The July AMERICAN RIFLEMAN quotes Elmer Keith as saying that "of all our American game, large and small, I know of no animal that is so difficult to hunt successfully as the coyote," and in the same issue Stan de Treville gives some hints on how to do it. If that whets your appetite as a hunter, wait till you read Dobie! He admits that coyotes are predators, but he claims that they are not as bad as they are painted, and that they have a definite place on nature's stage. Without coyotes, antelope would probably become lazy, overeat and get cirrhosis of the liver. Without coyotes, as they discovered in California, kangaroo rats take over. In fact, Dobie is against the mass artificial control of any kind of wildlife, particularly coyotes.

"I shall say nothing of the mechanical methods (kept to kill) any coyote or eagle reported by sheep ranchers. For them the wild scream of the eagle in the sunlight and the free howl of the coyote in the starlight mean less than the price of some snotty-nosed old ewe's offspring. . . ." You may not agree with Dobie on this, but after reading the tales he has to tell, you will have to agree that "the coyote is extraordinary as a character, quite aside from economic, political and like importance. He has something in

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5. Only necessary extra purchase is case holder extension for the shorter cartridges. Example: 30 cal. size will seat both 30-06 and 300 Mag. with no extras. If you wished to load 30-30 cases, an extension case holder would be necessary.

Bullet Seaters, any size $7.75. Extra ext. case holders 80¢.

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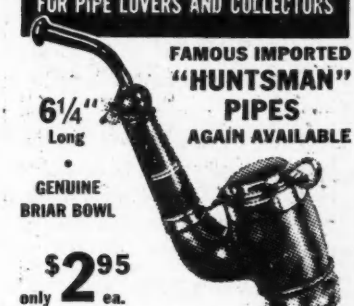

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RICHARD R. BEEDON,
Hollywood 27, Calif.

Sc8 Page 82

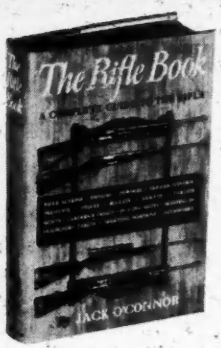
NRA RECOMMENDED BOOKS

NEW!

THE RIFLE BOOK

By

Jack O'Connor



The gun and hunting editor of *Outdoor Life* has put into this book all he knows about rifles, shooting, cartridges and equipment.

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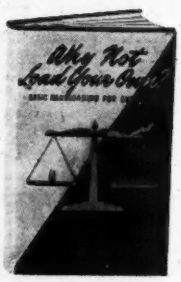

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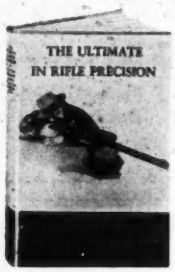

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This is a really rewarding book for any hunter to read. It is no dry, technical narrative, but a robust account of a real American character. The drawings by Olaus J. Murie add a final touch to a grand book.—R. J. McCloskey.

(Published by Little, Brown and Co., Boston, 1949. 351 pages, illustrations. Price, $4.00. Available through NRA Book Service.)

WHY NOT LOAD YOUR OWN?

By Col. Townsend Whelen

Col. Townsend Whelen has just written another book, one giving the beginner or amateur handloader the basic requirements for producing good handloads. In 215 pages the Colonel has briefly covered practically all of the important steps a shooter must take to produce good ammunition at low cost. Even those who have been loading for many years will gain valuable tips and suggestions on some of the 'minor' things that reloaders often overlook.

The chapter on specific cartridge data and loads covers 40 different popular cartridges. Loading data on several of the most important and popular wildcat cartridges are included, a few of which are the Kilbourn Hornet, the Mashburn Bee, the 2R Donaldson, the .219 Wasp and the Improved Zipper. In the handgun line, only the popular .357 Magnum has been omitted.

Some specific and worthwhile data listed for each cartridge is the normal overall length of factory loads and pertinent cartridge-case dimensions. In addition, some of the most-used handloads for each of the forty calibers are listed. Other good information is the normal velocity for factory loads, average bullet diameter, and in most cases, the standard rifling twist for each caliber.

Some of the recommended loads give an estimated velocity. Since estimated velocity is only approximate, it can lead to confusion and has done so, because when velocities in one book are compared to those in another, no two agree. For that reason, estimated velocities of loads should be taken with a grain of salt.

Further, by checking the maximum suggested loads carefully, occasionally we find one which, under certain conditions might be excessive in certain rifles. It is therefore wise to consider as maximum any load listed and to load cautiously at first starting somewhat under that maximum charge. A typical example is the 56 grains of Hercules HiVel No. 2 with a 220-grain bullet in the .300 H&H Magnum at 2625 foot-seconds velocity. It is considered a maximum load and judged accordingly, because, in some rifles, it would possibly be excessive. This kind of dope, though, will be found in any publication listing loads for various cartridges.

This book is a good effort on the part of Colonel Whelen to help the beginner in the reloading game. The way he has covered minor but important factors is impressive. The book is indexed sufficiently to find most of the important data.—Al Barr.

(A National Rifle Association Library Book published by the Infantry Journal Press. 215 pages, illus., with appendices. $3.50.

THE ARMS CHEST

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

1. Rate: 25 cents per word including name and address—minimum charge $3.00. Advertisements *must be accompanied by remittance,* made payable to "National Rifle Association"—1600 Rhode Island Ave., Washington 6, D. C. *Insertion will not be made until payment is received.*

2. Closing Date: All advertisements must be received with advance payment by not later than the 1st of the month preceding date of issue. (Example: November 1st for the December issue. Ads received after November 1st and not later than December 1st will be inserted in the January issue.

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4. All Orders Subject to These Conditions: We reserve the right to edit all copy to conform with our standards and to reject or discontinue any advertisement which we consider undesirable.

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ADDRESSOGRAPH-MULTIGRAPH "70" DUplicator, Good 20 @ $9.00 each; Accounting machine Elliotttisher, good, $15.00. Hy Standard "E", Good, $55.00; Hy-Score Air pistol, $14.00. Excellent; Benjamin Air Rifle, repeater, good, $14.00. Kodak Soundprojector FB25 Cost, $540.00. Want $250.00. Good. Want small pistol, binoculars, camera. Krzak, 72 Greeley, Pawtucket, R.I.

BIG CATALOG, ANTIQUE GUNS. $1.00. 475 photographs. Satisfaction guaranteed. G. B. Hebard, Knoxville, Illinois.

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IMMEDIATE DELIVERY, NEW, MOD. 70, 06, 270, 257, 220, 22 Hornet, $109.50, Mod. 141, 35 Rem., $104.95, Mod., 99 EG, 300, Savage, $96.25. Special Colt, Officer's target 22, 38, $65.00, Sportsman, $55.00. Match Target, $75.00. Ralph Overly, Ephrata, Penna.

QUICK WAY BULLET PULLER, $6.00 SET. Pulls all large rifle bullets .22 to .35 cal. For Pacific and Universal tools. Money back guarantee. See March dope bag. M. L. Whitesell, 1131 North Lincoln, Casper, Wyoming.

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Final closing date for the January 1950 issue is December 1st.

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UNERTL Falcon 2½X, $48.00. Hawk 4X, $52.00. Condor 6X, $66.00. 1" obj. target, $58.00. 1¼" obj., $78.00. 1½" obj., $90.00. 2" obj., $125.00. Varmint 6, 8, 10X, $75.00.

WEAVER K6, $48.50. K-4, $45.00. K-2.5, $37.50. J-4, $27.50. J-2.5, $22.50. G-6, $12.50. G-4, $9.75. **LYMAN** Alaskan, $60.00. Challenger, $85.00. Jr. Targetspot 6, 8 and 10X, $62.50. Super Targetspot 10, 12, 15, 20X, $90.00.

OBSERVATION SCOPES. B&L 60mm. 20 power, $95.00. Argus 20-power, $74.50. Saturn 20-power, $25.00. Davidson Mark 245, 20X, $84.50. Extra eyepeices 15, 25, 30 & 40X, $15.00. Mark 245 bipod stand, $15.75. O'Dell's Scope Mount for pistol cases, $4.50.

SCOPE MOUNTS. Echo, $12.50 to $17.50. Griffin & Howe, $19.50. Redfield Jr., $12.50 to $19.50. Buehler, $15.00. Tilden, $16.50. Mykrom ¾, ⅞, 1, $14.85.

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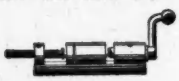

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Super, complete for one caliber	$38.75
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(Pat. Pend.)

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Provides dual open and peep sight combination. Use "TECO" for quick, open running shots. Retains issue peep for long-range standing shots. Price $2.50 Postpaid.

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Completely inletted and finished, no finger grooves. $1.90 each, two for $3.00. Garand butt stocks, used, good, 2.50 each. Postpaid if payment accompanies order.

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RARE—1890 REMINGTON 44—FRONTIER, excellent—single action. Museum collection. Baker, 979 S. Kingsley Dr., Los Angeles.

BARREL BLANKS FOR SALE OR TRADE: Enfield $40.00. L. Rios, 49 Church, Westfield, Mass.

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MAUSER 30-'06 SPORTER. HENSOLDT Dialyt Scope. Redfield Mount. Pad Sling. Boyt Case. Excellent. Examine. C. J. Ristrim, 2508 37th, Des Moines, Iowa.

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$35. delivered

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Genuine century-old guns or pistols. Symbols of our American heritage. Many types in stock.

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WATERPROOFING, FOR ALL FABRICS. Treat your clothes for the coming season. $1.00 Bottle. Dealers inquiries invited. Member. Suresco, 1180 Main, Hartford, Conn.

ELECTRIC PENCIL: ENGRAVES ALL METals, $1.25 postpaid. Beyer Mfg., 10511-Z Springfield, Chicago 43.

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BEAUTIFUL 28 GAUGE CUSTOM BUILT double single trigger, never fired, 375 shells, $300.00. Hal V. Carlton, 605 Orange Ave., Fort Pierce, Fla.

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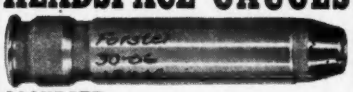

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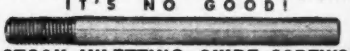

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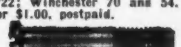
GUARD  **SCREWS**
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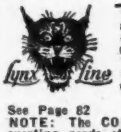

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See Page 82
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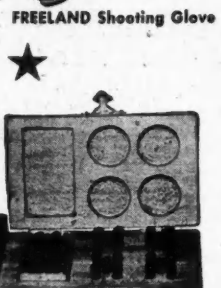

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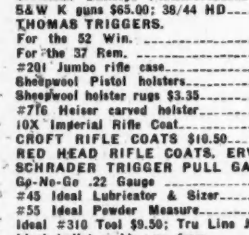

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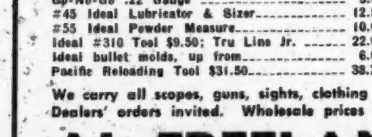

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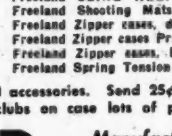

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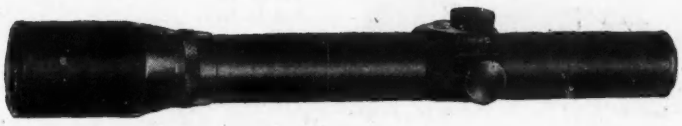

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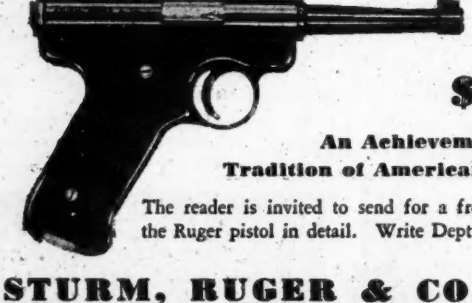

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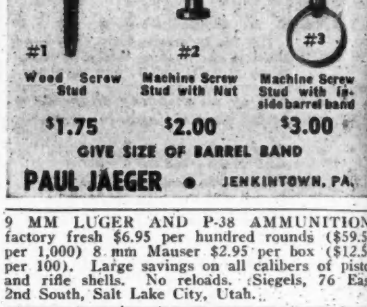

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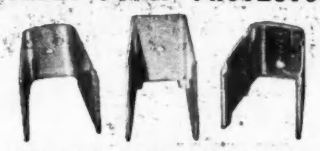

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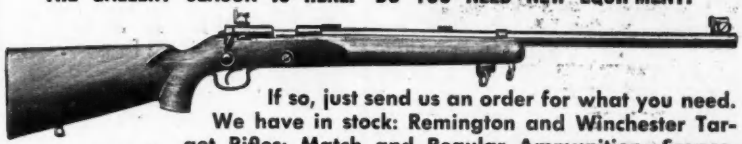

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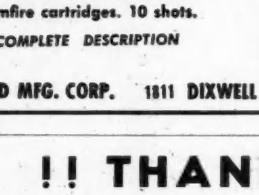

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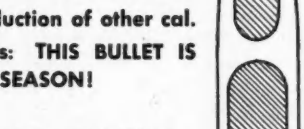

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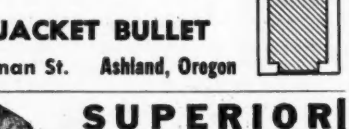

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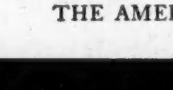

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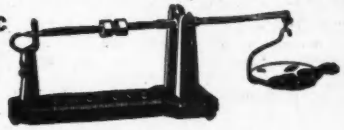

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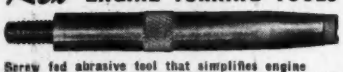

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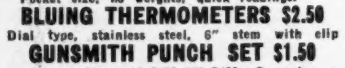

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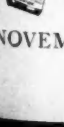

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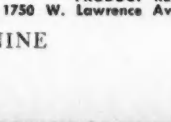

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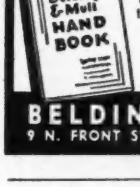

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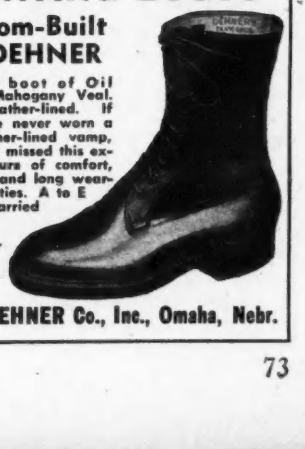

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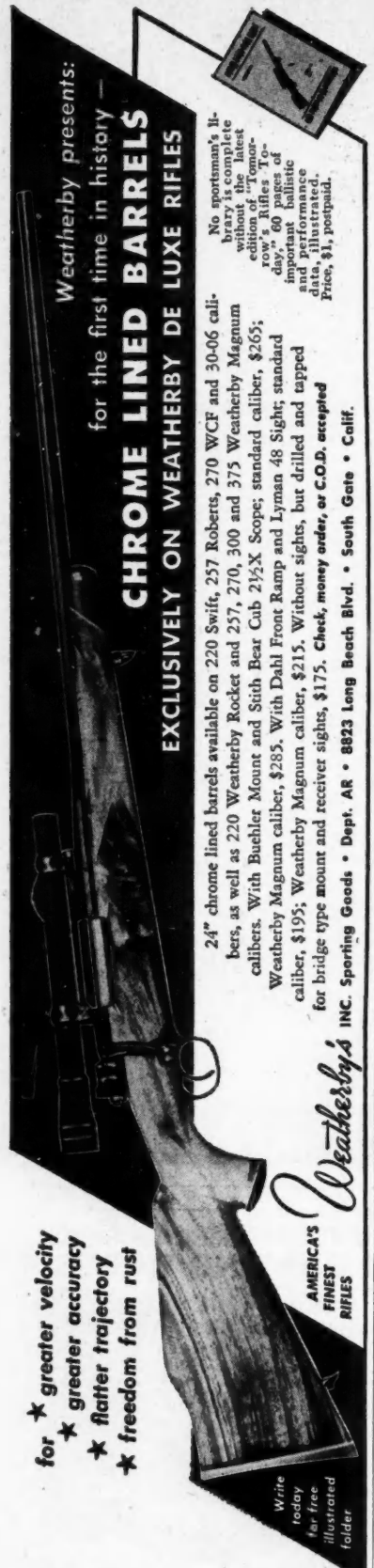

24" chrome lined barrels available on 220 Swift, 257 Roberts, 270 WCF and 30-06 calibers, as well as 220 Weatherby Rocket and 257, 270, 300 and 375 Weatherby Magnum calibers. With Buehler Mount and Stith Bear Cub 2½X Scope; standard caliber, $265; Weatherby Magnum caliber, $285. With Dahl Front Ramp and Lyman 48 Sight; standard caliber, $195; Weatherby Magnum caliber, $215. Without sights, but drilled and tapped for bridge type mount and receiver sights, $175. Check, money order, or C.O.D. accepted

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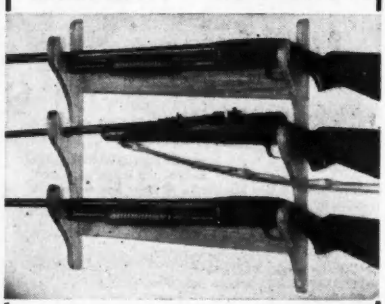

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.243"	W-M 8-S	Morse	75 & 65 4.25
.263"	S.Pt. Spitzer	Ebel	120 4.25
.308"	S.Pt. Spitzer	Sierra	125 4.25
.308"	S.Pt. Spitzer	Sierra	150 4.50
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.22 to .375 Caliber bullets in various makes, styles and Dia. Dealers' inquiries invited. Stamp for price list.

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22 NAMBU, LUGER ADAPTERS. MALCOLM I. Hill, Southern Pines, N. C.

.257 ROBERTS MAUSER, CHROME MOLYBdenum 25" barrel, band-ramp front, Lyman Alaskan, Litschert 6x attachment, Redfield bases. Beautiful Monte-Carlo stock with tenite fittings, checkering, recoil pad. Weight 10 lbs. Factory ammo. Excellent. $170.00. Dr. George S. Mitchell, Harrisburg Hospital, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

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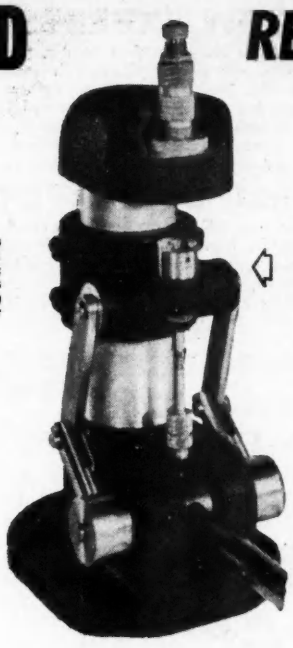
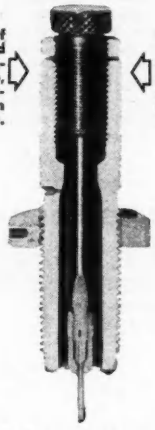


The Hollywood Tool is massive in design, with leverage and ease of operation for the most efficient method of reloading cartridges, or SWAGING bullets.

Cutaway view of the Hollywood full length resizing die complete, showing their advanced design and construction.



Hollywood dies in stock for 131 different calibers; other calibers continually being added. Write for latest die list.

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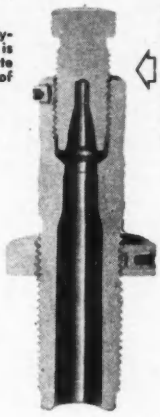

Cutaway view of the Hollywood bullet seating die complete. One set of dies, as shown, $12.50, includes resizing die and bullet seating die complete.

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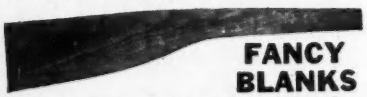

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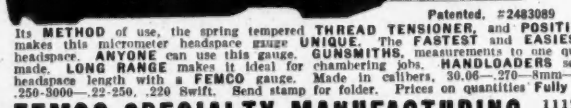

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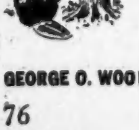

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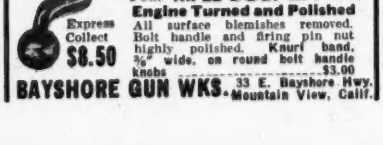

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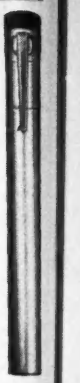

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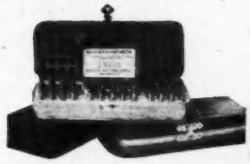

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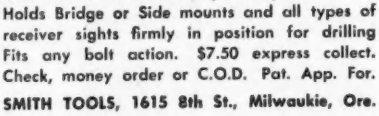

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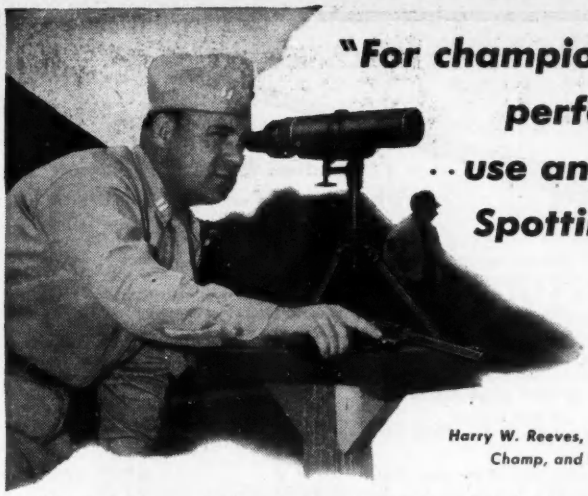

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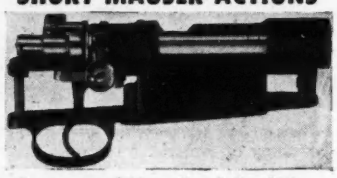

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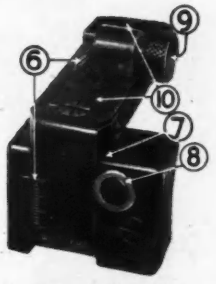

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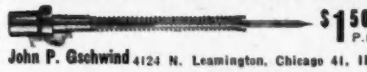

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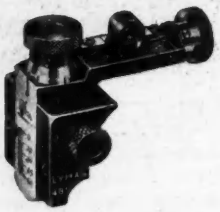

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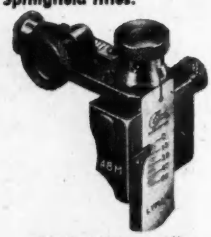

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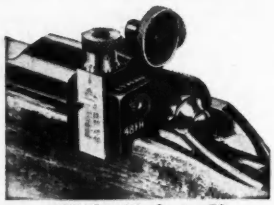

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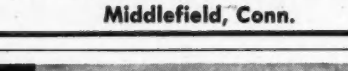

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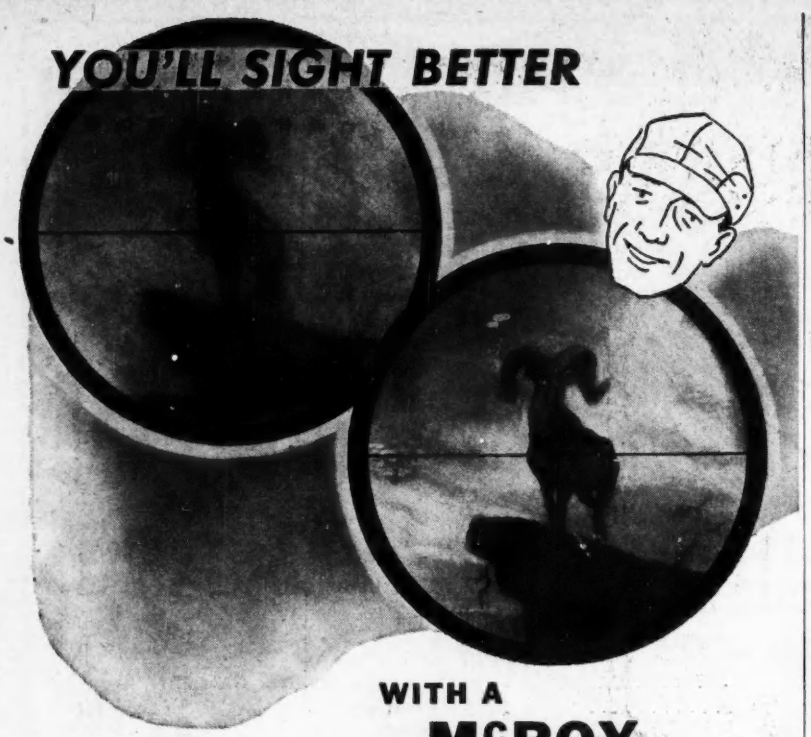

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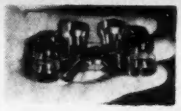

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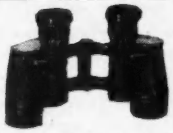

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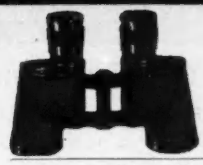

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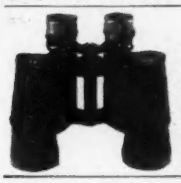

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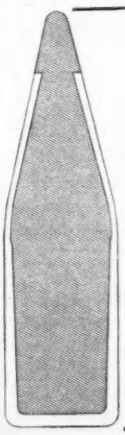

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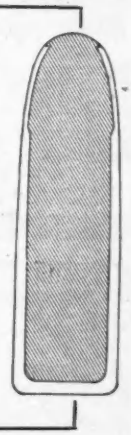

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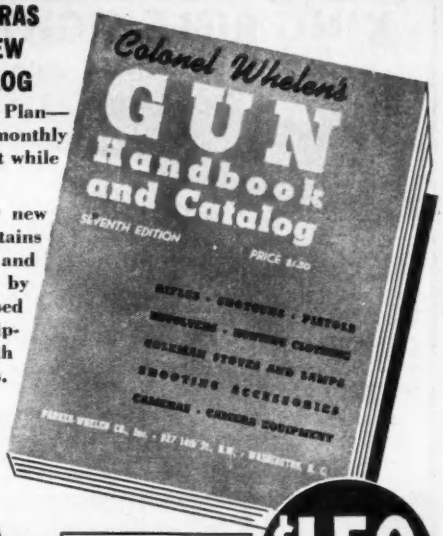

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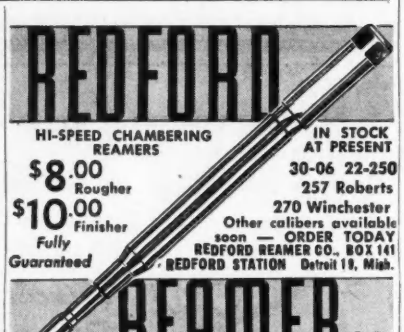

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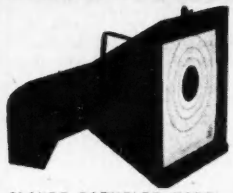

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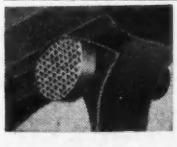

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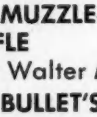

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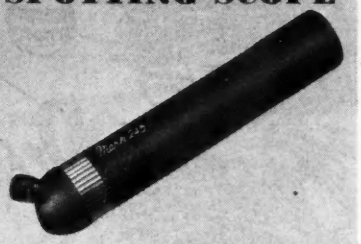

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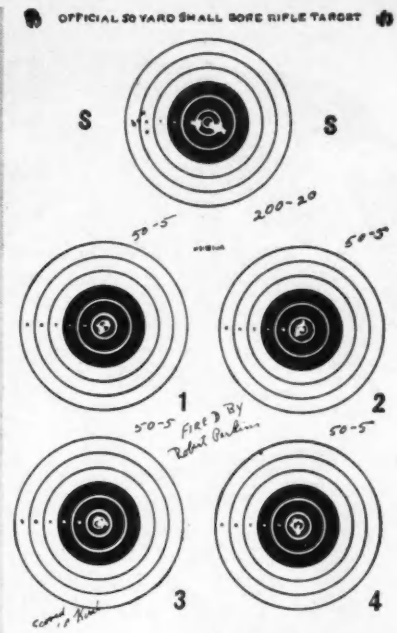

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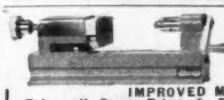

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CALIBERS: 30/06, 300 Savage, 7 m/m, 270 Winch. & 257 Roberts. Has F & N Mauser bolt action with fitted chrome molybdenum 6 groove 24" bbl. Oiled black walnut stock with pistol grip, monte carlo cheek rest, and checkering. Dahl ramp F.S. & Lyman 48 R.S. 1" Whelan type sling. Q.D. swivels. Wt. 8 lbs. Prepaid 149.50

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100% DOWN JACKETS

100% water-fowl down insulation that is quilted to stay put. Fine poplin water-repellent outer with 2 slash pockets. Full zipper front. Soft bright satin lining. Colors: Sage, Taupe, & Gray. Sizes: small, medium & large. POSTPAID TO YOU 19.95

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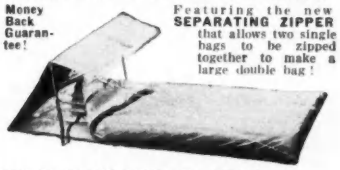

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WHITE. SOX SHAPED. FITS INSIDE BOOTS. PREVENTS FROZEN FEET. NEW. POSTPAID. ..... .79

All Purpose 100% DOWN INSULATED & FUR CAP

Guaranteed to fit perfect and give satisfaction

WITH GENUINE MOUTON FUR EAR & NECK WARMER!

Fits like a pair of your favorite slippers. Outer of fine 196 count water-repellent poplin. Insulated with 100% down. Quilted to stay put. Leather covered rubber visor is unbreakable. Flat braided slip proof ties secure deep mouton neck & ear warmer up when not in use . . . Colors: Red, Forest green, putty, & taupe. Sizes: Small, medium & large.

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43

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94

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62

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61

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